

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

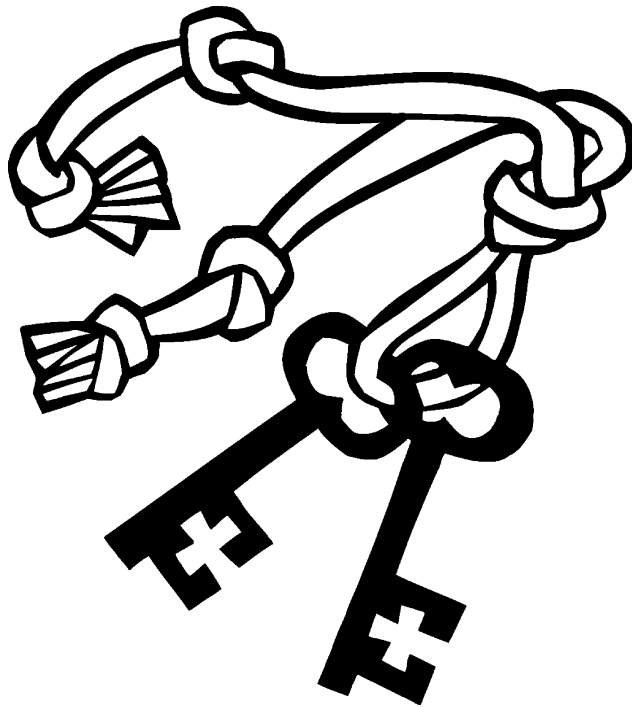
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

August 23, 2020

9:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Reconciling God,

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we will live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- 1** The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
- 2** Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3** Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.
- 4** Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.
- 5** Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

- 1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. **R**
- 2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. **R**
- 3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **R**
- 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. **R**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God,

C with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we will gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 (read responsively)

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Built on a Rock"

ELW 652

- 1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.**
- 2 Surely, in temples made with hands
God the Most High is not dwelling—
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.**
- 3 Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,**

- he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.**
- 4 Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.**
- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872;
tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin.
Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: ☐ Lord, in your mercy,
☑ **hear our prayer.**

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: for the 57th wedding anniversary of Dan & Karen Wolf

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Sherry Henneman, mother of Scott Henneman; to the family and friends of Howard Jensen

Illness: Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Karen Bucholz, Don Burton, Carol Coffey, Joe Doremus, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Richard Holzer, father of James Holzer, Renee Johnson, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Johnson, Marcie Lafleur, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, Ed & Darlene White, Kimberly Wilson, Debra Woosley, Joanne Worm

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Schrader
Jean Johnson, *piano*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184



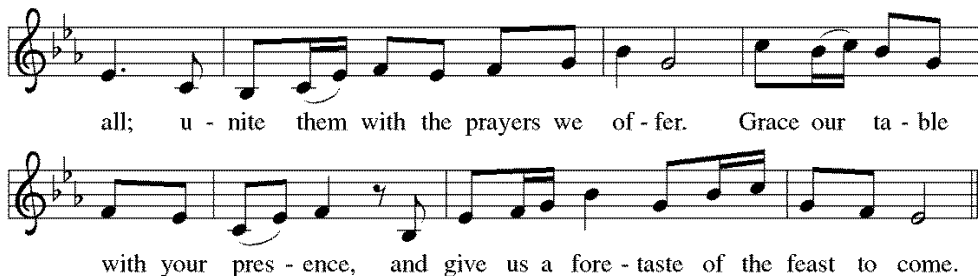
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of goodness and growth,
- C** **all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we will proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR TIME AFTER PENTECOST

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



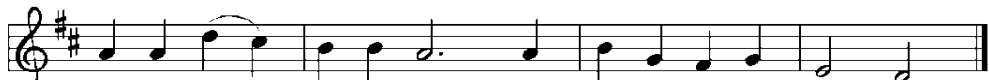
Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Friends of Jesus, come to his table.

C **We receive nourishment for our journey.**

(sit)

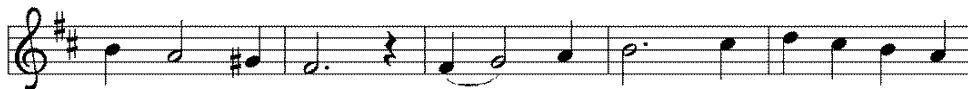
AGNUS DEI



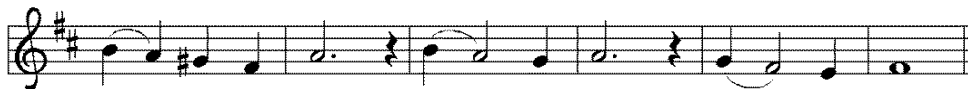
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

ELW 597

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne!
Refrain

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ God of the welcome table,

☞ in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Almighty God, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless you now and keep you in eternal love.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

ELW 820

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love; O name of might and favor, all other names above: we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing; we praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King.</p> <p>2 O bringer of salvation, who wondrously hast wrought, thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought: we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing; we praise thee and confess thee, our gracious Lord and King.</p> | <p>3 In thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and pow'r divine; the glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is thine. We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing; we praise thee and confess thee, our glorious Lord and King.</p> <p>4 Oh, grant the consummation of this our song above, in endless adoration and everlasting love; then shall we praise and bless thee where perfect praises ring, and evermore confess thee, our Savior and our King!</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you always.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist



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Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
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August 23, 2020

Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. We were blessed to have some lovely, enthusiastic and energetic young people join us over the summer. As they have returned to school, we are short staffed. Please consider volunteering on Monday morning from 7:30 AM—9:00 AM, Monday 9:00 AM—11:00 AM, Monday 11:00 AM—1:00 PM, or Friday evening 4:00 PM—7:00 PM. We have a good time, and Barb still makes us cookies! You may sign up for a time slot at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 122

9:00 AM Attendance: (Reservation Only) 59

Pantry Guests Served: 546

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering:

\$18,395.04 (Regular) \$1,899.68 (Specials)

\$1,932.00 (Phase 2)

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Anne Forslund's birthday (8/20) given by Christine Forslund; in honor of Clara Kidder's 20th birthday



Rally Day & the First Day of Sunday School!

With new social distancing protocols in place, we will begin the 2020/2021 Sunday school year online. Lessons will be videotaped and posted on the Kountze Memorial Facebook page or the KMLC Parents Group Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1634071720198453>. In addition, there will be pintables and activity suggestions that complement the lesson. If you would prefer to receive the lessons by email, please contact me at kristin@kmlchurch.org. This Sunday School year we will be focusing on the Liturgical Action of the church using the Godly Play curriculum. This includes lessons on Baptism and Holy Eucharist, as well as lessons about the liturgical seasons. Be sure to register your children! Find the online registration at

<https://www.jotform.com/Kristinboe/Registration>

If you are interested in volunteering your time to present a lesson, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org. All the lessons are scripted and materials are provided. Thank you!

Disciples do not conform to the world.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Matthew 16:13-20 | Peter's confession of Christ |
| Monday | Isaiah 51:1-6 | Blessings for God's people |
| Tuesday | Romans 12:1-8 | Christ brings new life |
| Wednesday | Exodus 1:8-2:10 | Israelites are oppressed |
| Thursday | Psalms 124 | Thanksgiving for Israel's deliverance |
| Friday | 1 Peter 1:13-25 | A call to holy living |
| Saturday | Psalms 138 | Praise God with all your heart |
| Sunday | Matthew 16:21-28 | Take up your cross and follow |

taking
faith
home

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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. **Romans 12:2 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, in a world that can divide us from one another, we pray for your rule of mercy and grace that binds us together in faith and love through Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have food to eat through your abundant and fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be transformed by the will of God to know and to do what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you are tempted to do that you know is not helpful or right?
- What influences a person to do something wrong?
- How is the kingdom of Jesus different from other powers that want to shape your life?

Read: Matthew 16:13-20.

To be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2) is to be shaped by the powers of domination in an attempt to influence—or even control—people's thoughts, actions, and loyalties. In Matthew 16 Jesus and his disciples are in Caesarea Philippi, a place where many gods of the ancient world were recognized and worshiped, fickle gods that were seen as ruling human life rather arbitrarily. Jesus as the "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v. 16) will transform lives like the Canaanite woman and her daughter in Matthew 15. Jesus has the power to bind and to loosen lives (16:19) and Jesus intends to loosen lives from death to life, from sickness to health, from despair to hope, from broken relationships to a life of mutual forgiveness, from lives that are judged and condemned to lives that receive mercy. How does Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God free your life to be a servant of mercy to others?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

In Romans 12:6-8, the Apostle Paul lists a number of gifts that God has given people to support the work of the church like serving, teaching, encouraging, giving generously, leading, and being compassionate. Make a list of gifts you have been given and can use to support the church in the world. The entire faith community (body of Christ) is needed to do God's work. Take action by using one or more of the gifts you listed to help people in your community or the larger world.

Psalms 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise: "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart" (v. 1a). Draw a heart on a piece of paper. Inside the heart write a list of things you are thankful for. Take the heart and put it in a visible place as a reminder to give thanks and praise for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalms 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28