

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

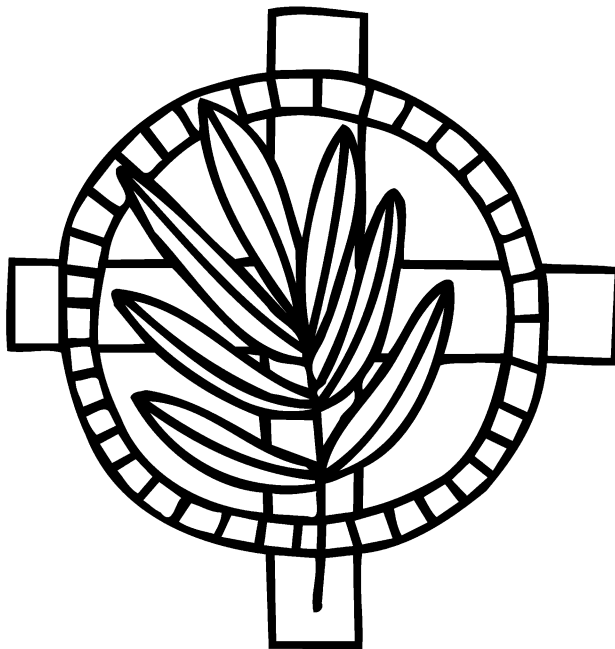
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

August 30, 2020

9:00 AM

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☑ **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

☐ Reconciling God,

☑ **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.

☐ 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.

☑ **Amen.**

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain***
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain***
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain***

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **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. ☒**
- 2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. ☒**
- 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. ☒**
- 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. ☒**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ **we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord . Amen.**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

Oh Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless..

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 26:1-8 (*read responsively*)

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

G Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “*God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.*” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “*Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.*”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take*

up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

ELW 520

1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707,
st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

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)

Illness: Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Karen Bucholz, Don Burton, Carol Coffey, Joe Doremus, Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson, 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: *Seminarrians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, 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

“Faith of our Fathers”

arr. Glen Poehlmann
Rahn Johnson, *tombone*

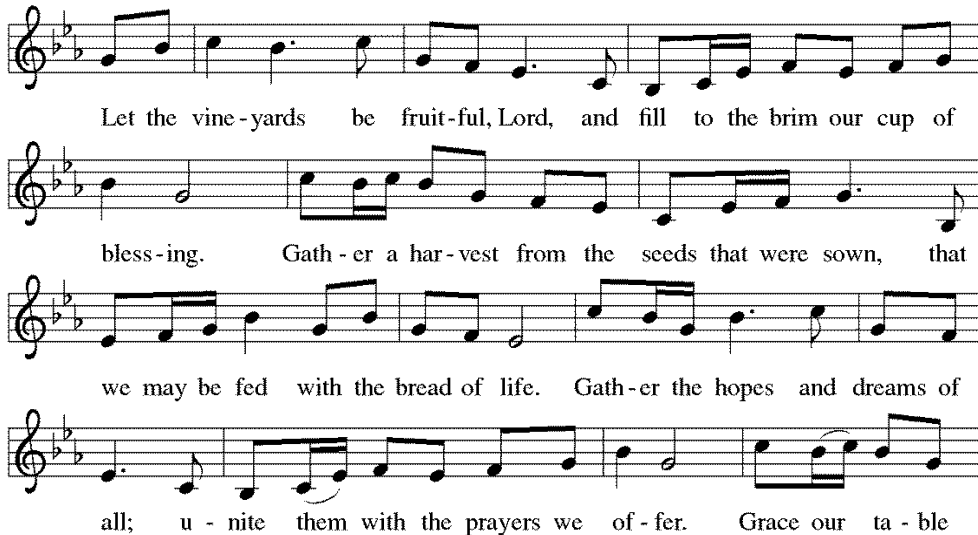
THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(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.**

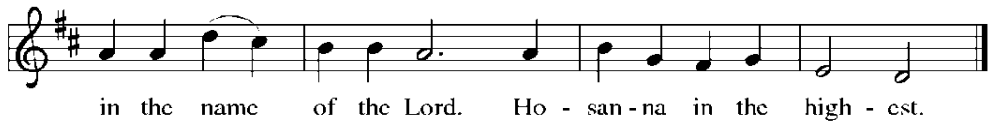
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:

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SANCTUS



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

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

ELW 359

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.</p> <p>2 With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.</p> <p>3 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.</p> | <p>4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.</p> <p>5 Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of the welcome table,
- C** 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

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710

- 1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.
- 2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.
- 3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

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 30, 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>

Extra! Extra! Read All About it!

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church to hold annual “modified” Picnic/Tailgate

Sunday September 27

5:30 PM - West Parking Lot

Mark your calendars, call in your reservation, pack the lawn chairs, card table, blanket, wet wipes, and the cooler. This year we will be having the picnic here at the Church in the West parking lot. When you arrive (Douglas Street “North” Entrance) the parking lot attendants will direct you to a parking spot and show you where you can unload and set up, there will be a car width between families/attendees. Giving

everyone plenty of physical distance.

Once you’re settled in, someone will take your order (white or dark meat) and relay it to our servers. A Chicken dinner with scalloped potatoes and green beans along with a cookie for dessert (BYOD - bring your own drinks) will be delivered to your car. Once meals are distributed, we will have a meal blessing (transmitted via F.M. radio to your car stereo). Watch for signs when you arrive announcing the F.M. frequency we will be broadcasting on.

We may have prizes for the best tailgate picnic decorations, most enthusiastic picnickers, best decorated card table, heck who knows; maybe best hat!

Once you’ve had time to enjoy dinner, everyone will be invited to break out the hymns that will be mailed/ emailed and we will engage in a “Parking Lot Hymn Sing.” We’ll picnic for an hour or so and restrooms (in the lower Kountze Commons area) are for emergency use only.

We need an accurate count of those attending for food planning and parking as we have a limited number of parking spots available. **Reservations need to be made no later than Noon on Friday September 18**, call the Church office or e-mail jim@kmlchurch.org to make your reservation, please indicate the number of people coming and general preference of white or dark meat chicken.

Now the big question “Why did the Chicken cross the road?” Guess you’ll have to come to the picnic to find out the real answer!

Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 175

9:00 AM Attendance: (Reservation Only) 48

Pantry Guests Served: 574

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

\$11,506.00 (Regular) \$301.28 (Specials)

\$557.00 (Phase 2)

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Ellen Pesavento given by Paul Revord; in honor of Natalie Samson & Mark Hansen’s wedding by Bob & Pam Johnson

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Ellen Pesavento given by Paul Revord

To follow Jesus is to be open to suffering.



These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday

Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
Monday	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Jeremiah is reassured
Tuesday	Romans 12:9-21	Rules for Christian living
Wednesday	Exodus 3:1-15	Moses at the burning bush
Thursday	Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	God's faithfulness
Friday	2 Timothy 2:1-13	A good soldier of Christ Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 26:1-8	Prayer of an innocent person
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation

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

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." **Matthew 16:24 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to pick up our cross as a way to love others through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, we thank you for the toil and efforts of others that we may have and enjoy this meal today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the cross of Christ give you good courage, hope, and love now and always.

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

- Tell or think about a time when you or someone you know was in pain.
- Reflect on a time you felt someone's pain. What makes you take on someone else's pain?
- How does your faith in Christ help you when you are in pain?

Read: Matthew 16:21-28

In an era where we can do so many things to avoid or stop the pain, it can be surprising that suffering is still part of life. It is part of the Christian life because Jesus shows us that the way of the cross—an excruciatingly painful way to die—gets at the heart of the Christian faith. Peter didn't get it, even if he knew Jesus was the Messiah. Peter had to be humbled and corrected. And we do, too. God shows the depth of love from the cross of Christ. We are invited to join the great movement of divine love by caring, suffering, and celebrating Christ's victory over sin, death, and evil. Part of that celebration is our openness to the pain of the world, the pain of others for the sake of love. It is also the path that allows us to see the kingdom of God at work. Why do you think suffering is an important aspect of the Christian faith?

Pray: **Compassionate God, help us to see in suffering and death the very path of life and love through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Most people have someone in their life who is ill, declining in health, or in hospice care. It can be painful to experience the suffering of a loved one. Those serving in the role of caregiver can often times be exhausted and in need of a break. Do you know of someone for whom a visit, meal, or call may give them the break they need?

In Jesus' time, the cross was about death. It is not easy to understand or talk about Jesus' death on the cross. The cross is a Christian symbol. It reminds us that Jesus is with us through easy and hard times. We see crosses in many places in our lives. As a follower of Jesus, notice the number of crosses you see in your home and in the community this week. Each time you see one, take a moment to pray: **Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross to save us.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20