

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
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September 06, 2020

9:00 AM

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Faithful God,

C have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C Amen.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 All creatures, worship God most high!
 Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
 sing, sister moon and stars of night:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
 you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Dear sister water, useful, clear,
 make music for your Lord to hear:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
 drive far the shadows, join the throng:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
 praise God in colors bright and rare:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p>4 All who for love of God forgive,
 all who in pain and sorrow grieve:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
 still make your song amid the tears:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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,

☩ **enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord . Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people.

Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “*O wicked ones, you shall surely die,*” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “*Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?*” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

☩ The word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:33-40 *(read responsively)*

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from holding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “*You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet*”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“*If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.*” ¹⁶“*But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.*” ¹⁷“*If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*” ¹⁸“*Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*” ¹⁹“*Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.*” ²⁰“*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

ELW 800

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.
- 2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.
- 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
- 4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

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: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of LeRoy Ebeling, uncle of Judith Bergjord

Illness: Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Karen Bucholz, Don Burton, Carol Coffey, Emilia & Shirley Dietrich, 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, Rod Kamrad, partner of Ken Johnson and Ron Brown, 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, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C 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

“O Rest is the Lord”

Mendelssohn
Amy Pignatore, *soloist*

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

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
- ☑ You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

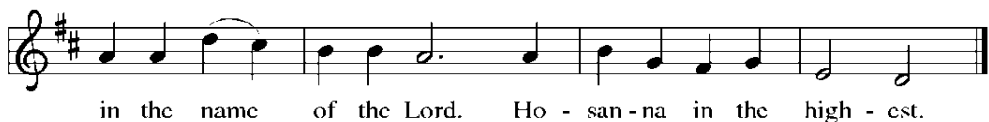
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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.

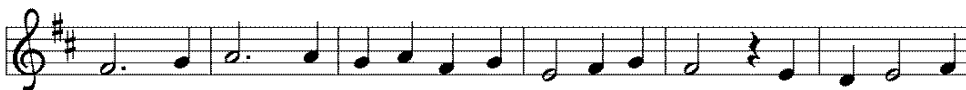
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet table

C where Jesus Christ gives himself as food and drink.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



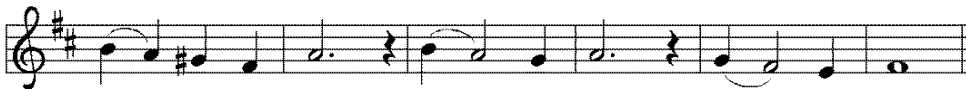
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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.

- 1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

- 2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- Ⓟ We give you thanks, gracious God,
- Ⓞ that you once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**
- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Remember the poor.
☞ **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

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September 6, 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

Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 166

9:00 AM Attendance: (Reservation Only) 43

Pantry Guests Served: 578

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$5,035.04 (Regular) \$1,911.42 (Specials)

\$522.00 (Phase 2)

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. We'll picnic for an hour or so. 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.

We could use a few volunteers to help with parking, trash, etc. Please let us know if you can help out when you make your reservations.

Church Office Closed—No Pantry

Monday, September 7 for Labor Day

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by the Inbarasu Family; in celebration of Jeff & Robin Perkins' 34th wedding anniversary; in memory of Bill Kee given by Debbie Kee

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by the Inbarasu Family

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Jean & Lee Johnson and Dayle Johnson in honor of mother, Lois Johnson, on her 95th birthday

Christians seek reconciliation with other Christians.

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God's judgment seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Exodus 12:1-14	The first Passover
Thursday	Psalms 149	A new song of praise
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Love fulfills the law
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness



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“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” **Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, teach us your ways that we may live together in peace and see Jesus in the face of others. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, in the midst of violent storms and droughts we encounter in the world, we thank you for this gift of food and for those who have brought it to us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus strengthen you to love your neighbor and be at peace with all.

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

- Think or tell about a time you felt badly treated by another individual or a group.
- What makes it hard to openly face conflict with someone?
- For Jesus and the church, we are to pursue others with love and grace. Does knowing this help you to resolve differences with others? Why or why not?

Read: Matthew 18:15-20.

All relationships experience conflict, even in the church. Jesus is aware of this and lays out a plan of action: out of love, be direct. It is the way of life of the people of God announced by Paul in Romans 13:10: “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” Being right is not good enough. Having your own way is not good enough. Be loving, be merciful, and pursue what is right; face conflict through a personal conversation to resolve the issue. But if the person who has hurt you does not repent, this is not an excuse to treat them badly. Treat them as Jesus would treat a Gentile or tax collector. He pursued them with his love. Jesus is present in all our relationships, even the stressful ones (v. 20). We are to seek them out with love and mercy. When have you been wronged by the harsh treatment of another? Did you face it directly with the other person to resolve it? Did you treat them as Jesus would? Explain.

Pray: Lord Jesus, when I am with others, remind me that you are present strengthening us to love one another anew each day. Amen.

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (Romans 13:9b) sums up the commandments. Who is your neighbor? It may be the person next door or someone in the community. Loving others, even when they are different from you, fulfills the law and motivates us to action. How does knowing this motivate you to show love to a neighbor?

Next Sunday is the beginning of a new Christian education year for many congregations. Psalm 119 is a lovely text that promotes learning God's will and word. Pray for all teachers and students involved in Christian education and mention those you can by name. Conclude with:

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35