

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

November 15, 2020

9:00 AM

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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, in whose image we were made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

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 Holy One,

C we confess that we are not awake for you.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C Amen.

- 1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.
- 3 There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Righteous God, our merciful master,
- ☑ you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath.

Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "*The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.*" ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is

bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-12 (*read responsively*)

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

**¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "*There is peace and security,*" then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of

many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²² *And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’*²³ *His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’*²⁴ *Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’*²⁶ *But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’*²⁷ *Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.*²⁸ *So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.*²⁹ *For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.*³⁰ *As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ”

ELW 674

**1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. Refrain**

Refrain

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain**

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

☐ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we 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: Gwen Berney, Richard Bock, Don Burton, Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Ranae Gardner, Samuel Garrett, Richard Holzer, father of James Holzer, Renee Johnson, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Johnson, Harlan Kirkvold, father of Steve Kirkvold, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, Charlie Wachholtz, Ed & Darlene White, Robert Whitehead, Kimberly Wilson, Joanne Worm

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, 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.

G 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

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Mark Hayes
Paul Rath, *soloist*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

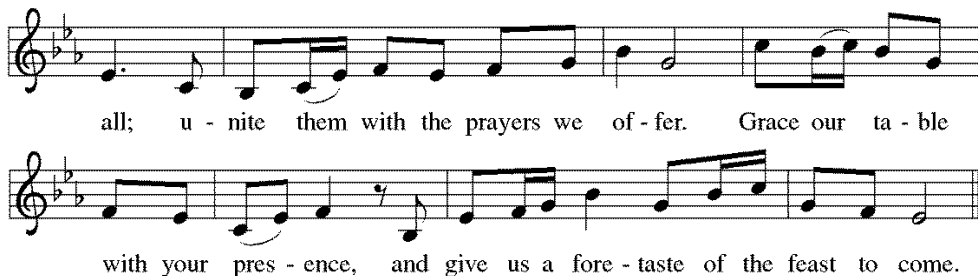
(stand)

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

- P** God of all goodness,
- C** generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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.

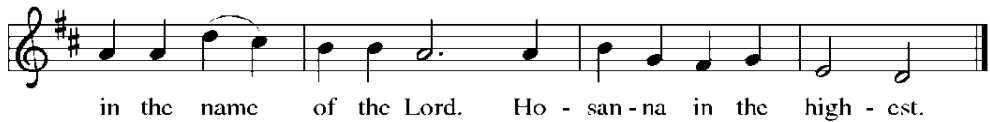
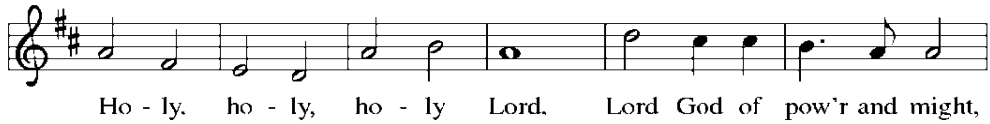
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 There is a place for you at the banquet.

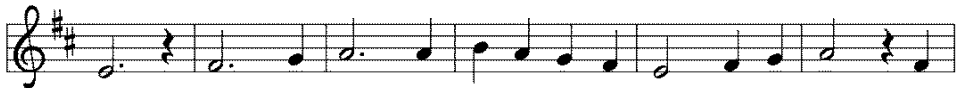
C **Come and feast at Jesus' table.**

(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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ELW 632

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:</p> <p>2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.</p> <p>3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.</p> | <p>4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.</p> <p>5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.</p> <p>6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Lord Jesus,
- C** in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

ELW 678

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.</p> | <p>2 Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.</p> |
| <p>3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.</p> | |

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006
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DISMISSAL

- ☐ Beloved of God, go in peace to serve the Lord.
☑ 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 Saturday or 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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November 14 & 15, 2020

Kountze Food Pantry Need Personal Care Items & 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 only about \$5,000 short of having our \$100,000 in Family Fare receipts! When we reach our goal, the Pantry will receive \$1000! That money goes a long way in fulfilling our mission to "Feed the Poor, in Christ's Name." We are also asking for full-sized, personal care and hygiene products to give out in lieu of the holiday bags we have given to our guests in the past. We would like to include an all-in-one shampoo/conditioner, bar soap or body wash, toothbrush and paste, razor and shave cream. Of course, toilet tissue is always needed. Thank you! If you would like to volunteer please sign up at the following link:

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

Q & A with Pastor Shari Duminy

We will hold a Question and Answer session with Pastor Shari Duminy on Thursday, November 19 from 7:00-8:30 PM. It will take place in person in the sanctuary (and the Fellowship Hall if necessary) and will also be live-streamed. Tim Backora, Chair of the Call Committee, will lead the session. Those present will have the opportunity to ask Pastor Duminy questions. Those live-streaming can email their questions to info@kmlchurch.org (by Tuesday, November 17). Those planning to be in attendance must register by noon on Tuesday, November 17. As has been the custom, you will enter through the Kountze Commons Link (west side) and exit through the Farnam Street doors.

Special Congregation Meeting

A special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on calling The Reverend Shari Duminy as Associate Pastor will be held Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Please RSVP no later than noon on Thursday, November 19. Attendance at the meeting will also be permitted through Zoom.

Zoom Codes: Meeting ID: 927 5354 1772

Passcode: 697624

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Jean Holcombe given by Tom Holcombe

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page.

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person in on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. The 1st Sunday of the month will be current event Sunday. Please bring an article or current event to share (must be non-COVID related).

ZOOM: The youth group will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Adult Forum

Pr. Hall continues to post videos for a multi-week study of Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian" (1520), on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChtalSdEjyMBKlZjibGGIyfa/>

The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage: www.elca500.org.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 18

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 44

Total: 62

Pantry Guests Served: 826

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 11

Offering:

\$20,260.04 (Regular) \$10,014.82 (Specials)

\$1,627.00 (Debt Reduction)

The importance of encouraging one another.

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	Judges 4:1-7	Deborah and Barak
Thursday	Psalms 123	A prayer for mercy
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats



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Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you for the body of Christ that helps us when life is difficult and our faith is weak. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you who make the earth fruitful, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our bodies and encourages our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Almighty God strengthen your soul through brothers and sisters in Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

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

- How do you support someone when they are discouraged or are feeling down?
- How has someone supported you when you were in need of encouragement?
- Why do you think Christians need support and encouragement from one another?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Good times and hard times can happen—and change—rather quickly (v. 3). Daily life is fragile. Life experiences can change dramatically with a phone call. What is constant is the need to care for one another and build up the body of Christ. There are important connections between this text and the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. God has gifted us to use our vocation, our calling in life as a child of God, to do God's work in the world. If we do not do this, if we ignore or hide our calling, the ministry of the church suffers. Instead, we are to trust in a God who acts; we are not to fall prey to complacency and speak and live as though God is not present and active in our lives and history (Zephaniah 1:12). Paul reminds the people that they—and we—are to reach out to others—especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. We are to do so with encouragement to live each day in faith, love, and hope because of the God who acts and has given us “salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9). How are you encouraged by others to live your faith? How do you encourage others?

Pray: **God of grace, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses that walk alongside us to strengthen us in faith, love, and hope through Christ. Amen.**

Jesus' parable of the talents makes a strong case for every Christian to have a calling, to use one's gifts and passions to serve the church and the world. Make a list of how to use your gifts and talents to serve the church and world around you.

A *talent* in Jesus' day was money. Jesus tells a story about three servants. One hid his money and never used it. In our day, we think of a talent as a natural ability to be good at something. If we are good at something, we should not hide our talent but use it to the best of our ability. Drawing, singing, and dancing are a few talents. Think of what talent(s) you have and in what ways you can tell others about Jesus by using that talent. Each day this week choose one talent to use and say this prayer: **Dear God, help me to use my talents, whether big or small, so that others know you.**

Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46