

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
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November 8, 2020

9:00 AM

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

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** 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.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God of justice and love,
- C** you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70 (read responsively)

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

²Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

☐ 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 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When Peace like a River”

ELW 785

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be
sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall
descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C 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,
 G 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: Richard Bock, Don Burton, Pr. Shari Duminy, 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, Patricia Ranney, 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 Thanks”

Henry Smith
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

- ☐ God of all goodness,
☑ 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:

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 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.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes full homage to demand.</p> <p>2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.</p> | <p>3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way;
as the Light of light, descending
from the realms of endless day,
comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,
as the darkness clears away.</p> <p>4 At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Text: Liturgy of St. James;
tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

℟ Lord Jesus,

℣ 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.

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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

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW 244

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.</p> <p>2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.</p> | <p>3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.</p> <p>4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722;
tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

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 7 & 8, 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." Please keep those receipts coming! We are no longer able to recycle plastic bags due to COVID restrictions. The Pantry is 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>

A Pantry Contribution and Note from Pr. Carlos & Jan Schneider

Jan and I have long admired the work of the congregation in "feeding the hungry" and the spirit in which it is done. Please convey to the congregation and especially the Pantry volunteers, our thanks for the work that they so unselfishly and faithfully carry out. Let them know that we continue to thank God for their work and witness so lovingly shared in the name of our Lord Christ.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Glenn & Sharon Anderson in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary; in memory of my father (Richard Mueller 11/1/2003) given by Barb Nissen

Television Broadcast is sponsored by Glenn & Sharon Anderson in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as the Kountze Memorial Facebook Page. In addition, there are pintables and activity suggestions that complement the lesson. If you would prefer to receive the lessons by email, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Youth Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM

IN-PERSON: The youth group will meet in-person in the green space 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

Members and friends of the congregation will have the opportunity to study Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian" (1520). The ELCA is encouraging study of this monumental text on its 500th anniversary. Pr. Hall will post videos for this multi-week study on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is

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

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: 16

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 62

Total: 78

Pantry Guests Served: 868

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$7,858.00 (Regular)

\$3,848.91 (Specials)

\$687.00 (Debt Reduction)

Be alert and be glad for the Lord is coming.

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten brides
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	The tribes renew the covenant
Thursday	Psalms 78:1-7	Tell the children God's word
Friday	Luke 21:29-37	Be always on the watch
Saturday	Psalms 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents



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

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" **Psalm 70:4 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Righteous God, help us to be ready for the time Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to anticipate the end of the age with joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, help us to receive this food with thanksgiving and to serve those less fortunate with acts of love and service. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who promises you the great banquet feast bless you with peace and joy now and always.

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

- Tell or think about something that you do with focused attention.
- How does paying attention help you do your best?
- Jesus wants his followers to stay alert and be ready for his coming. How is this important to you and to others?

Read: Matthew 25:1-13.

This parable seems harsh. We might think we are to have mercy on the foolish and not lock them out. A more merciful approach is evident in the next chapter when Jesus' leadership team of disciples falls asleep while Jesus prays in the garden (26:36-46). Jesus chastises them without a sense of rejection. In this parable the church is reminded to live with the final victory of God in Christ in view. It is to impact our daily lives as we wait for Christ's second coming. However, unless there is a particular experience of suffering, we tend to live without paying much attention to Christ's coming again. Jesus is alerting his followers to the importance of watchfulness of the times and readiness to act faithfully at any given moment. That is when the church blesses, serves with justice, and offers salvation in Jesus' name. How might a conscious awareness of Christ's victory and return to "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed), impact your daily conduct?

Pray: **Come Lord Jesus, strengthen our lives of faith that we may anticipate your coming again with joy and serve our neighbor in love. Amen.**

According to Amos, worship without acts of justice for the needy is meaningless to God. During and after a worship service, take time to think about how God's acts of love and mercy for you and all humanity lead you to do acts of kindness and love for others.

The foolish bridesmaids in the parable did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to be ready and let the light of Jesus' love shine. We can do this by being ready to do God's work everyday. One way to be ready is to pray for others, read scripture, and bless others. Use this blessing daily during this week: **May the light of Christ shining through you show your readiness to do God's work.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30