

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761

February 7, 2021

9:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY



*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Mark Jones, organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Holy God,

**C** you search us and know us.

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—**

**our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow**

**your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources**

**and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;**

**receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

**P** How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**C** Amen.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Arise, your light has come!<br/>The Spirit's call obey;<br/>show forth the glory of your God<br/>which shines on you today.</p> <p><b>2</b> Arise, your light has come!<br/>Fling wide the prison door;<br/>proclaim the captive's liberty,<br/>good tidings to the poor.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Arise, your light has come!<br/>All you in sorrow born,<br/>bind up the brokenhearted ones<br/>and comfort those who mourn.</p> <p><b>4</b> Arise, your light has come!<br/>The mountains burst in song!<br/>Rise up like eagles on the wing,<br/>God's pow'r will make us strong.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

### 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** Everlasting God,
- C** you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news will be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

**H**ave you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “*My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God?*” <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 147:1-11, 20c (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth,  
making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,

**in those who await God's steadfast love. Hallelujah!**

## THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

☒ 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. Mark.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

As soon as [Jesus and his disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he

prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” <sup>38</sup>He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING

## SERMON

*Pastor Roynesdal*

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Thy Holy Wings”*

**ELW 613**

- 1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.
- 2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.
- 3 Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal

## 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)*

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Zella Duchman; to the family and friends of Joanne Worm

**Illness:** Lois Andresen, Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Joy Borchman, Don Burton, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Esther Riha, Gary Rodene, Judy Ryan, Al Schewe, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, John Waterman, Darlene White, Robert Whitehead

**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.

**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 visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!*



### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

arr. Lyndell Leatherman  
Curt Johnson, *soloist*

### THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** O God,  
**C** receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

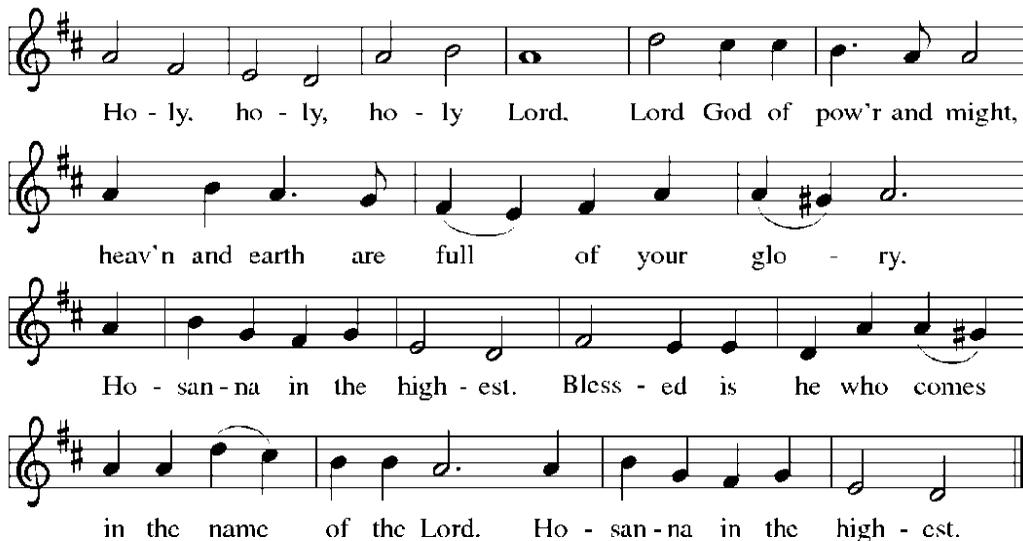
## HOLY COMMUNION

- 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 EPIPHANY

- 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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** Holy Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.

**C** Come and be fed.

## DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.*

(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 When mem'ry fades, and recognition falters,  
when eyes we love  
grow dim, and minds confused,  
speak to our souls of love that never alters;  
speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused.  
O God of life and healing peace, empow'r us  
with patient courage, by your grace infused.
- 2 As frailness grows,  
and youthful strengths diminish,  
in weary arms which worked their earnest fill,  
your aging servants labor now to finish  
their earthly tasks, as fits your mercy's will.  
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing,  
your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.
- 3 Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading.  
The past and future mingle into one.  
All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading.  
No valued deed will ever be undone.  
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and off'rings.  
Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

## "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day  
be wholly thine!
- 2 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love  
fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ Christ Jesus,  
☞ at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ God, the creator strengthen you; Jesus, the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

**ELW 671**

*Refrain*

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your Word, Lord , and let there be light!**

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine one me, shine on me:**

*Refrain*

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.  
Shine one me, shine on me:**

*Refrain*

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Be the light of Jesus Christ.  
☞ **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 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

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 6 & 7, 2021

## Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;**  
**9:00 - 11:00 AM;**  
**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM**

The Food Pantry is greatly in need of volunteers that can work 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM. This is when we get our deliveries and the heavy lifting is done. We are moving approximately 10,000 pounds of food each week. We still need volunteers to carry out food to the cars of our guests. We have shopping carts to assist the volunteers, so you only have to lift into and out of the cart. You will be paid handsomely with coffee and Barb's cookies! Please consider helping them out by volunteering at the link below:

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

## Youth Summer Trip

Summer Trip Planning will take place through a Zoom Meeting with youth and parents on February 10 at 7:30 PM. If you are interested and did not get an information letter with Zoom access, please inform the church office so one can be sent to you.

## Register for Summer Camp!

Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/schedule> to register. Note: all deposits are fully refundable for the 2021 summer camp season. All summer camp registrations are done on a secure online registration site called UltraCamp. Directions for registration will be on the camp website.

## Attendance and Giving

**Saturday Attendance:** 16

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 77

**Total:** 93

**Online Attendance:** 148

**Pantry Guests Served:** 351

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 23

### Offering:

\$17,040.00 (Regular)      \$5,540.46 (Specials)

\$1,447.00 (Debt Reduction)

## Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers and Eternal Candle** are given to the glory of God in memory of Joyce E Hahn by Wayne A Hahn and family.

### Official Notice

**Budget Q & A—Sunday, February 7**

**10:30 AM in the Sanctuary**

**Annual Meeting—Sunday, February 14**

**10:30 AM in the Sanctuary**

**(& the Fellowship Hall if needed)**

A Question and Answer Session on the 2021 Budget (included in the February Good News) will be held on **Sunday, February 7**

**at 10:30 AM.** This will also be

live-streamed. The Annual Meeting will be held in-person and will also be live-streamed and zoomed. If you have questions regarding the budget please e-mail them to our treasurer, Tim Backora ([tbackora@cox.net](mailto:tbackora@cox.net)) or to Pastor Olaf ([olaf@kmlchurch.org](mailto:olaf@kmlchurch.org)).



### Online Sunday School

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

### Youth Forum

**In-Person & Zoom on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:00 AM**

All 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Fellowship Lounge and on Zoom each week

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Current Events (non-Covid related)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Bible Ponderings

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Serving in the World and Games

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Checking In and Sharing Hopes

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Adventures (if on Zoom, we will carry you along with us.)

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or

[shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org) if you need the Zoom Link info.

We will continue to be masked and social distanced for all meetings in person at the church.

## *Jesus heals as he preaches and teaches.*

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

Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people
Monday	Isaiah 40:21-31	The Lord gives strength
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	For the sake of the gospel
Wednesday	Psalms 41	A prayer in time of sickness
Thursday	James 5:13-18	Remember to pray
Friday	Proverbs 3:1-8	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	Praise the Lord
Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration of Jesus



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*But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Everlasting God, you strengthen the powerless; send us out with your message of love and healing through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Isaiah 40:29)

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you feed us with care and put rain upon the earth that your love we may share that gives all a new birth. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord renew your strength with wings like eagles, that you may run and not be weary, that you shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

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

- Talk or think about a time you have felt sick or weary?
- When you or someone you know has been ill, what has helped the recovery?
- Jesus brings good news that is filled with acts of love that heals lives. What is something in your life that you would like healed?

*Read:* Mark 1:29-39.

Does Jesus make a difference in this world or is he just a great guy with a sweet message and philosophy for a successful life? The world wants to know and the church needs to be able to answer in the affirmative: Yes, Jesus makes the difference for our world. This story from Mark 1 certainly believes it. The message that Jesus announces is more than words. It comes with actions that change lives. The hurts of the world find themselves at Jesus' feet again and again. Jesus doesn't have to go out and search for people in need. We all have a need for the kingdom that Jesus announces and lives. Demons are cast out, people are healed, Jesus prays, and his march forward into a world of need continues. Faith in Jesus is believing—at least wanting to believe—that Jesus makes the difference we need for hope and healing, peace and love. How does faith in Jesus make a difference in your world and the world of others?

*Pray:* **God of hope and healing, lead us into the world with good news that serves and loves others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Caring for the sick is a special way of showing Jesus' love. Think of someone you know who is in need of healing. Send that person a card to let them know you are thinking of them or call, if possible, and take time to brighten their day through conversation. Bring their needs to Jesus in prayer throughout the week.

Christians are a praying people. There are many traditions we can introduce into our homes to remind us to pray and to help make prayer a routine part of our lives. Jesus gives us a model for a faithful prayer life when he seeks out time to be alone in prayer (Mark 1:35-37). Set aside time to be alone in prayer this week to give God thanks and pray for Jesus' healing for others. Close your prayer time with the Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**