

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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March 28, 2021

9:00 AM

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY



Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)***P** The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11*Jesus enters Jerusalem.*

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

P The Gospel of our Lord.**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P The Lord be with you.**C** **And also with you.****P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**C** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. On this day He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed as King of Kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palms along His way. Let these branches be for us signs of His victory, and grant that we who bear them in His name may ever hail Him as Our King and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life, who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

G Amen.

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

G Hosanna in the highest!

ENTRANCE HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ELW 344

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821;
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God of mercy and might,

G in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offered your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 (read responsively)

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ Lord over all reality. The Perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives and fellowship within the community of Christ.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave

him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Mark 14:1—15:47

The Passion texts can pose problems for Jewish Christian relations. For centuries, many Christians blamed “The Jews” for Christ’s death. This interpretation is incorrect, misguided, and dangerous. In fact, crucifixion was solely a Roman form of punishment, one used to frighten subjugated peoples into obeying Roman authority. Tragically, Christians have misused the reading of the Passion to foment violent anti-Semitic pogroms. Anti-Semitism still plagues our world. We read these texts with sensitivity and caution, remembering the cruelties and failures of our past.

*The congregation remaining seated and joins in the words that are in **BOLD PRINT**, the Passion Gospel is read in parts led by a narrator who begins by saying:*

NARRATOR: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

NARRATOR: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

DISCIPLES: "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor."

NARRATOR: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

JESUS: "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

NARRATOR: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

NARRATOR: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

JESUS: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

NARRATOR: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

NARRATOR: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES: "Surely, not I?"

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

JESUS: "Take; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

JESUS: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: But he said vehemently,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And all of them said the same.
They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

JESUS: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

NARRATOR: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

NARRATOR: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: "Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

ACCUSERS: "We heard him say, `I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

NARRATOR: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "I am; and `you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and `coming with the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

NARRATOR: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

ACCUSERS: "Prophecy!"

NARRATOR: The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: "This man is one of them."

NARRATOR: But again, he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

BYSTANDERS: "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know this man you are talking about."

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

JESUS: "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he broke down and wept.

NARRATOR: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered him,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

PILATE: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

NARRATOR: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

PILATE: "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

PILATE: "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: They shouted back,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

(At the mention of Golgotha, all stand as able.)

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

BYSTANDERS: "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

NARRATOR: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

BYSTANDERS: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

BYSTANDERS: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

NARRATOR: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

The Bible text is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ELW 338

- 1 **Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.**
- 2 **Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.**
- 3 **I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Mary Gruber, daughter of Tom & Theresa Gruber; Donna Baker, sister of Mary Olson

Illness: Lois Andresen, Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Ron Muchmore, Mary Olson, Marce Picha, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Al Schewe, Helen Taylor, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, John Waterman, Darlene White

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G And also with you.

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!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

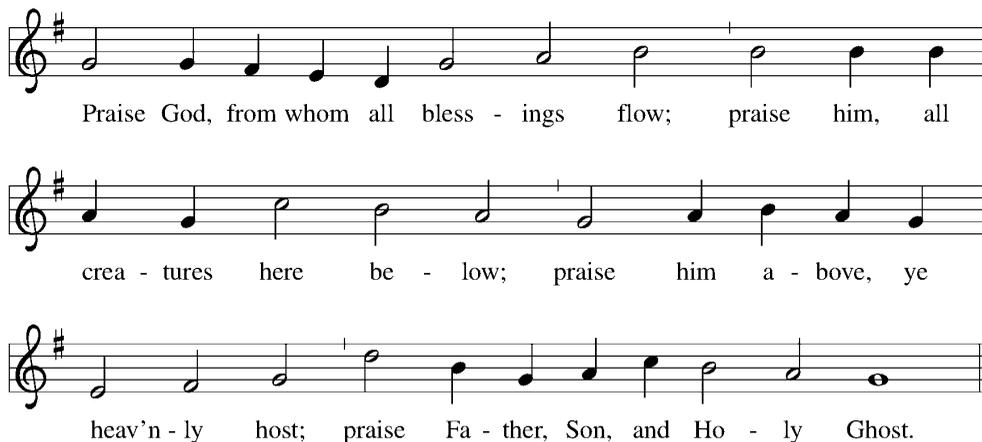
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

arr. Jason W. Krug
Kountze Bells

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

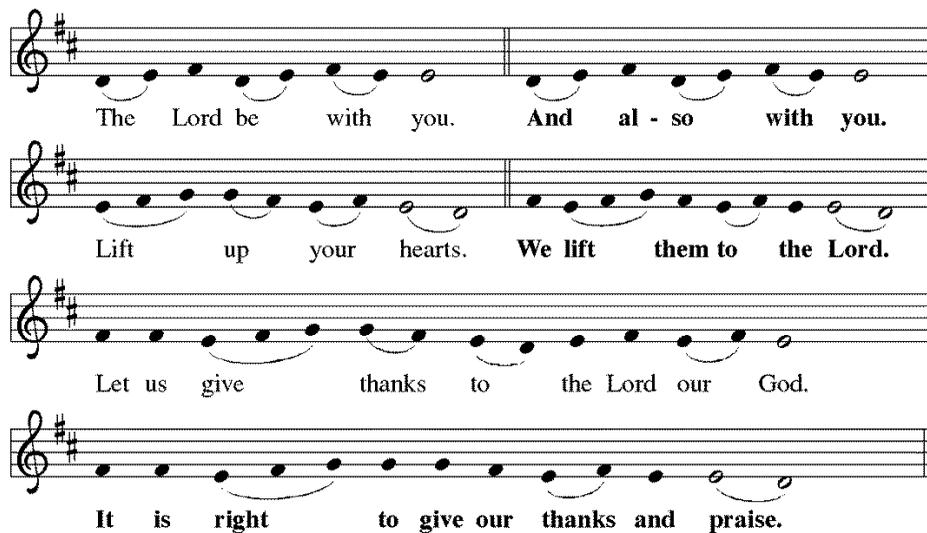


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Faithful God,
- ☑ **you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to live with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

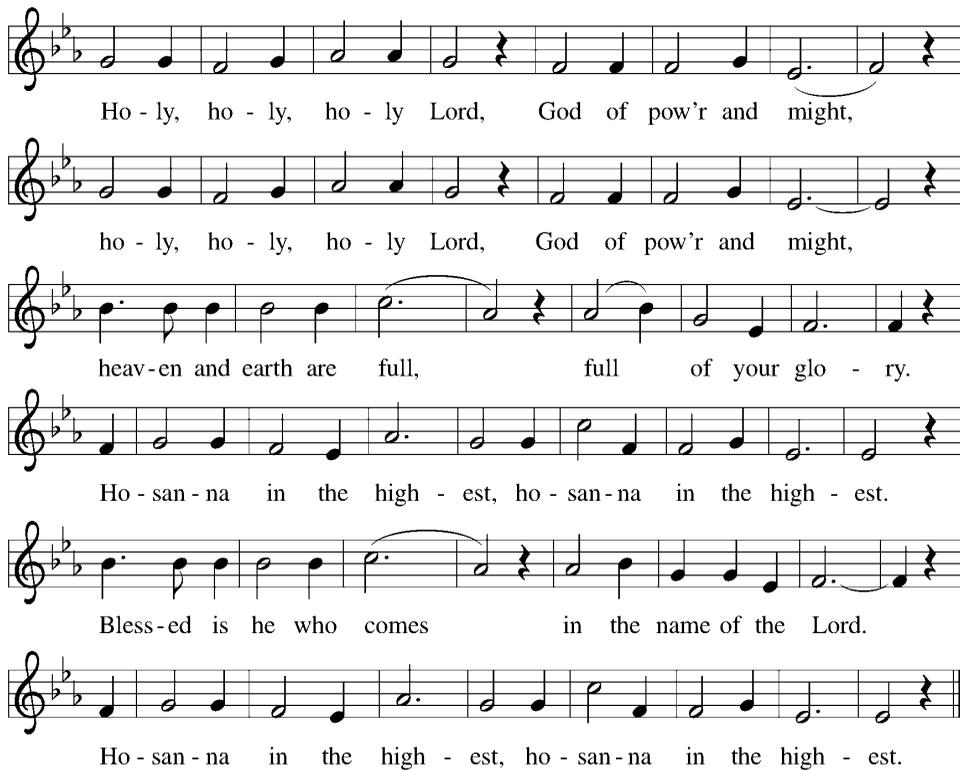
HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE FOR THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☞ **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

☐ Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

☑ **Come to this meal 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.

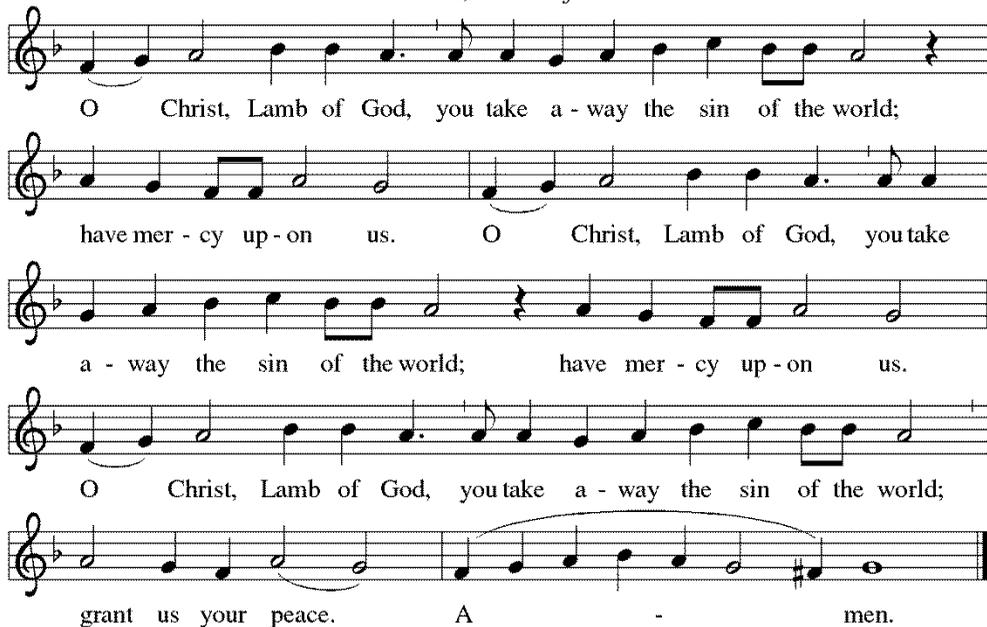
Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI

"O Christ, Lamb of God"

ELW 196



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

**1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

Refrain

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

**2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain***

**3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain***

**4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

ELW 666

**1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**2 When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

**3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of steadfast love,
C at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of this world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit bless you that you may be a blessing.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW 264

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

**2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!**

Refrain

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Rockingham Old”
(When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)

Robert Buckley Farlee
Mark Jones, *organ*

✝ ✝ ✝

*We thank the Kountze Bells, Mark Jones and the Passion Readers for sharing their gifts
this Palm Sunday*

Passion readers:

Narrators: Pr. Olaf Roynesdal

Jesus: Jacob Weiland

Peter: Judi Bergjord*

Judas/Centurion: Pr. Ashley Hall*

High Priest/Pilate: John Schneiderman*

Servant Girl: Dannika Rees*

Spoken as a group: *Chief

Priests/Disciples/Soldiers

Kountze Bells:

Judi Bergjord

Jacque Johnson

Jean Johnson

Rahn Johnson

John Schneiderman

Lynn Schneiderman



Maundy Thursday, April 1

7 PM Worship Online & In Person (***with reservations only***)

Good Friday, April 2

12-3 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service:
Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers & String Quartet
(***no reservation required***)

7 PM Online & In Person (***with reservation only***)
Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows)

Holy Saturday, April 3

10 PM Worship In Person (***with reservation only***)
Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist)

There will be no 5 PM Saturday Service

Easter Sunday, April 4

9 AM Worship Online & In Person
(***by reservation only; reservations full, see 11 am service***)
Kountze Brass

10:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space
All children, **registered** for the Easter Sunday services, are welcome to
join in an Easter Egg Hunt. Bring a basket and join us in the Green Space
following worship.

11 AM Worship In Person (***with reservation only***)
Kountze Brass

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

March 27 & 28, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers and Clothing Needed

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM

9:00 - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Have you ever bought what you needed at Kohl's or JC Penney, received either Kohl's Cash or a Penney's Reward, and then wondered "What should I use this for?" Use it to buy underwear, socks, hats and gloves! If you wait until the end of a season and buy on clearance, you can get a lot for your money. There is a need for everything in our community! Please put your donations in the Food Pantry Box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you very much! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Easter Sunday Attendance—9:00 & 11:00 AM

If you are interested in attending Easter worship please register as soon as possible. Please note that we are having two services. Please register for Holy Week and Easter services as soon as possible.

Note: If you have reservations for 9:00 AM on Easter morning but would be willing to move to 11:00 AM, please call the church office (402-341-7761) or email info@kmlchurch.org to let us know.

Easter Egg Hunt!

10:15 AM (following the 9:00 AM service)

All children, registered for the Easter Sunday services, are

welcome to join in an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 AM. Bring a basket and join us in the Green Space following the 9:00 AM service.

Youth Summer Trip

The Vans for the Summer Youth Trip to Tulsa Oklahoma are reserved. Now we need to see who is planning on joining us in filling the vans, with social distance considerations. The registration is open to 8th - 12th graders and is due by April 6. If you have any questions, Pastor Shari would be happy to talk with you.

Today at Kountze

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike

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 9th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Youth Room and on Zoom each week

- 1st Sunday: Bible Ponderings
- 2nd Sunday: High School Hang Out
- 3rd Sunday: Serving in the World
- 4th Sunday: Host Middle School Hangout
- 5th Sunday: Adventures (if on Zoom, we will carry you along with us.)

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org if you need the Zoom Link info. We will continue to be masked and physically distanced for all meetings in person at the church.

Camp Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills Summer positions available

Do you want to make a difference this summer? Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries is inviting you to consider working at Camp Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills. There are a variety of positions for 12 graders - College Age Adults looking for a summer job. Go to nlom.org/smt to get started.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 29

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 86

Wednesday Attendance: 32

Total: 147

Streaming Attendance: 150

Cox Cable Attendance: 280280

Pantry Guests Served: 845

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 28

Offering:

\$11,277.00 (Regular) \$1,724.70 (Specials)

\$882.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' journey to the cross.

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

Sunday	Mark 14:1–15:47	The passion of Jesus
Monday	John 12:12-16	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	A servant song
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	The Christ hymn
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	The passion of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	The tomb is empty



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

*[Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. **Philippians 2:7b-8 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you humbled yourself on the cross so that we may know you as Savior of the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for this food we are about to eat. May we open our hearts and minds to receive you in our lives with love and devotion. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine upon you, and save you with the steadfast love of the Lord. (Psalm 31:16)

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

- We often don't know important things about others. Who is someone you would like to learn more about? What would you like to ask them?
- Jesus' work as Savior comes through his rejection by others. Think or tell about a time when you were rejected. How did it make you feel?
- What do you learn about Jesus through his death on the cross?

Read: Mark 14:1–15:47.

This long text creates its own devotional mood by walking with Jesus days prior to his death to his anguish in the garden, the trial, suffering, and crucifixion. There is much to choose from and you can consider for yourself what is meaningful to focus on. Is it the hospitality of Simon the leper or the adoration of an unnamed woman anointing Jesus? Is it Judas Iscariot and how we might betray Jesus today or be one of the deserting disciples who scatter like sheep? Do you identify with the disciples in Gethsemane, unable to stay awake for prayer along with Jesus during his time of anguish? How would it be to be a bystander like Simon of Cyrene who is drawn in to carry Jesus' cross? How is it that the centurion from the occupying forces of Rome is the only one to acknowledge Jesus with the words, "Truly this man was God's Son" (15:39)? What was it like for Joseph of Arimathea to take down Jesus' lifeless body and place it in a tomb? Or what other part of the account grips you this year? Whatever it is, reflect on Jesus' great love and sacrifice and our own need for Jesus as Savior. How do you honor Jesus as Savior today?

Pray: **For your great sacrifice and love, help us to adore you and witness to you as the Son of God and hope for the world. Amen.**

Do you know someone who will spend Easter alone? Consider sharing the resurrection joy by inviting that person to join you for a meal or call them to let them know that you are thinking about them.

Palm Sunday is the day Christians remember Jesus entering Jerusalem. It signals the beginning of Holy Week. As the week begins, take time in your home to use palms received during worship or make palms out of construction paper and wave them to re-enact the crowds shouting as they met Jesus. As you wave the palms, imagine Jesus riding on a donkey past you and shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13b).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18