

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
www.kmlchurch.org

June 13, 2021

9:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God our provider,

C help us we pray.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from our ways.

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C Amen.

- 1** The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
- 2** Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3** Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.
- 4** Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.
- 5** Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ **you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we will bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15 (read responsively)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

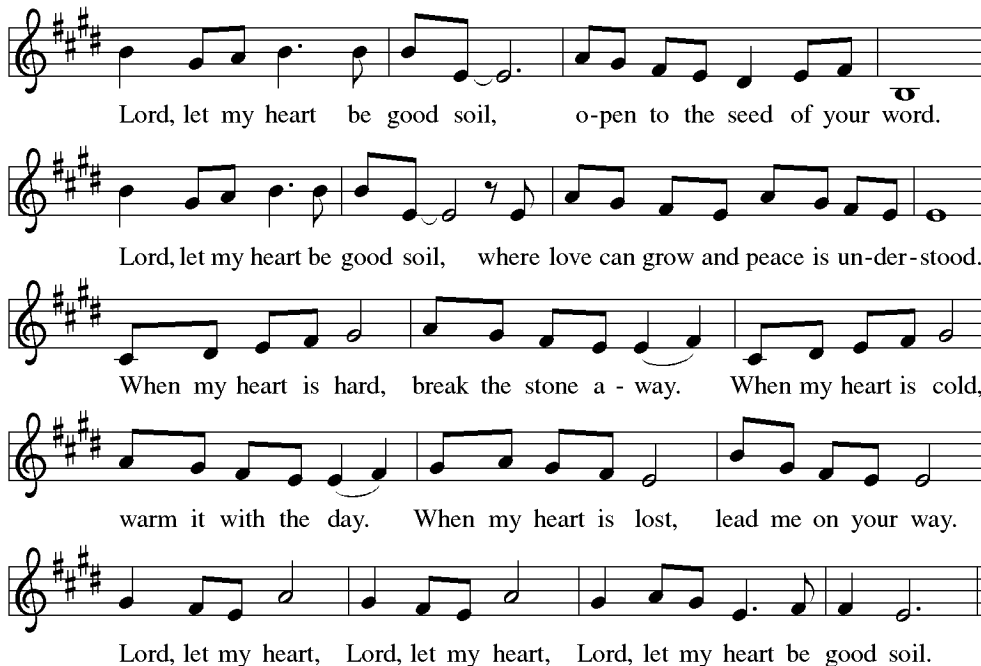
¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

ELW 349

- 1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.**
- 2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.**
- 3 Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.**
- 4 For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.**
- 5 Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.**

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr.
Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Response:** ☐ Lord, in your mercy,
☑ **hear our prayer.**

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

Illness: Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Sydney Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Linda Hoagland, Richard Holzer, Rik Hooper, nephew of Richard Bock, Renee Johnson, Mark Kidder, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, 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

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **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!



MUSICAL OFFERING

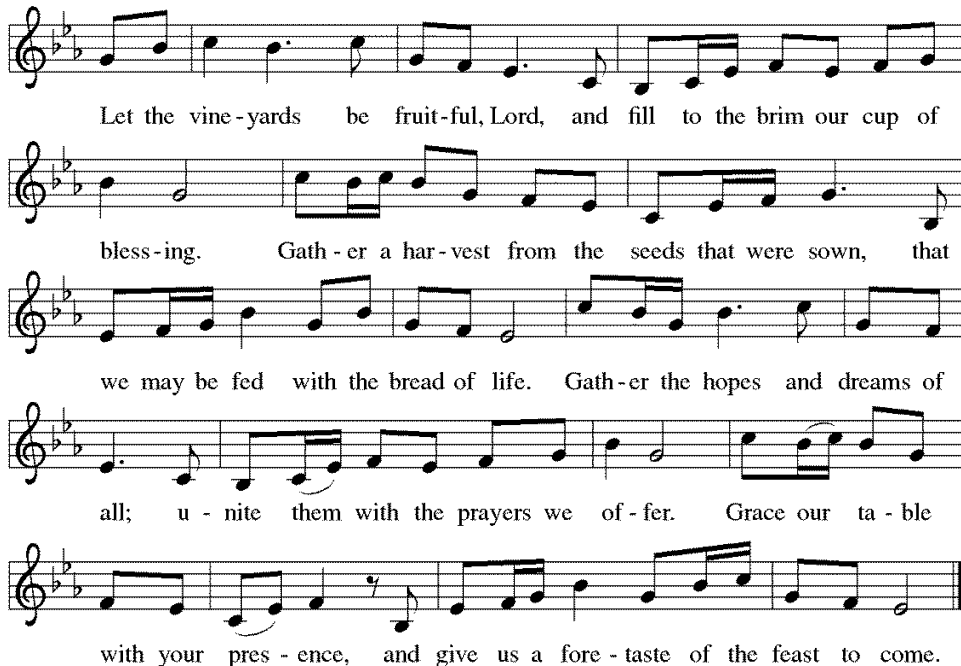
THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

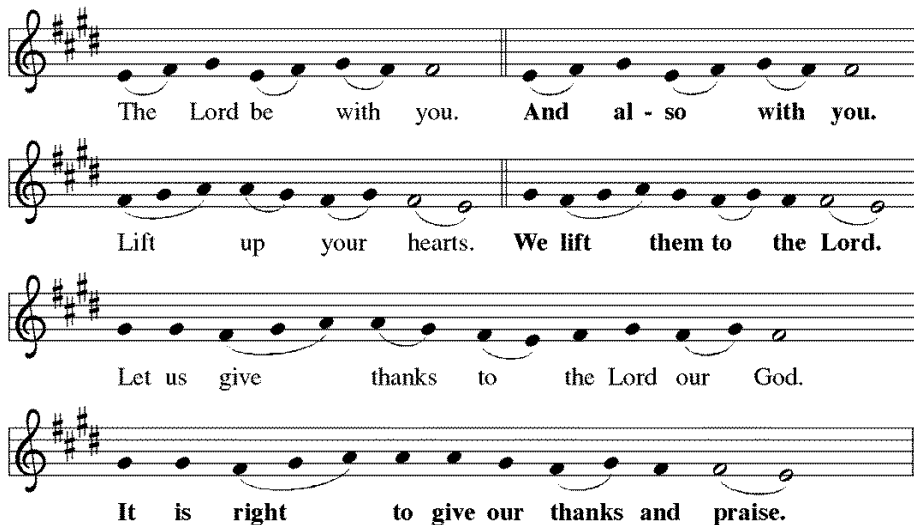


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Jesus, Bread of life,
C you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

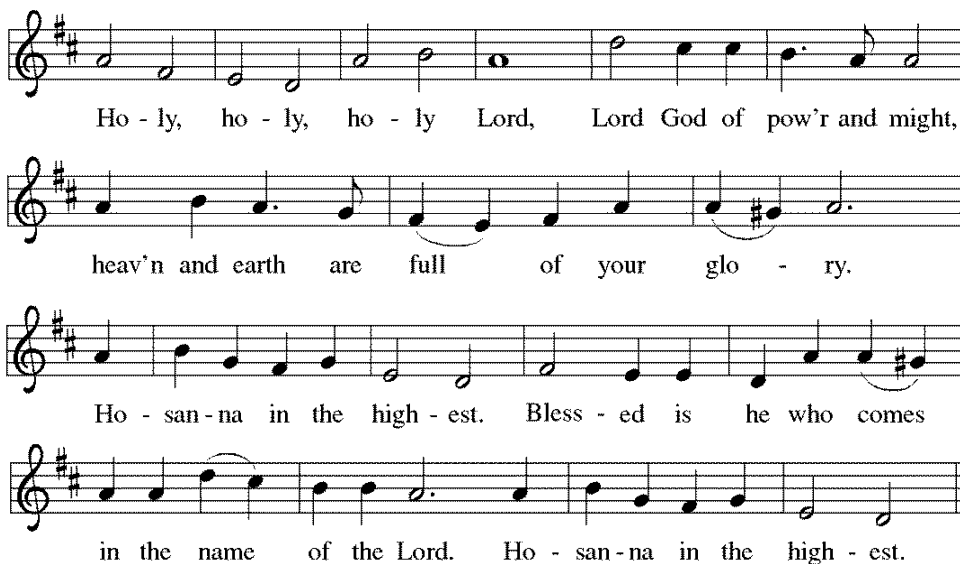
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

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 Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

C **Come!**

THE 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.

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

Refrain

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!**

- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain***
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain***
- 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” *Refrain***

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940;
tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.

- 1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**
- 2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**
- 3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Jesus, Bread of life,
C we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The blessing of the Almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

ELW 550

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 On what has now been sown
your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!</p> | <p>2 To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your word a blessing give.</p> |
| <p>3 Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!</p> | |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

† † †

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Special Notice

Reservations not required
Vaccinated—Masks optional
Not vaccinated—Masks required
Please maintain a minimum of 3 feet
between non-family members

You may still join us for Worship on Cox
channel 13 or live streamed at [https://
www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/)



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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June 12 & 13, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed:

Mondays, 7:30 - 9 AM, 9 - 11 AM, 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays, 4 - 7 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is in great need of toilet paper! We only provide it on request, but apparently there is a great need for it. Please leave your donations in the box in fellowship hall, or in the office. We also need new or like new reusable tote bags (we cannot reuse plastic grocery sacks), cereal, and full-sized hygiene products. Please place your donated items in the shopping cart as you enter for church, in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall, or in the church office. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Moving Forward!!

- No reservations for worship will be required.
- Face masks will not be required. We support an individual's choice to wear a mask if desired for personal protection for any reason. We are taking this position to encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated to wear a mask without any negative implications. Indeed, many people will feel safer attending services wearing a mask.
- Those who have not been vaccinated are requested to wear a mask. We will operate under the honor system, assuming that all who attend will abide by this stipulation.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 35

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 161

Wednesday Attendance: 12

Total: 208

Streaming Attendance: 71

Cox Cable Attendance: 224

Pantry Guests Served: 792

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$15,558.00 (Regular) \$2,065.31 (Specials)

\$5,062.00 (Debt Reduction)

- All pews will be available for seating (the ropes will be removed) but we are recommending that non-family members sit and remain three feet apart from each other.

June and July: The pew cushions will be brought back. The Fellowship Hall will be open for coffee following the service beginning June 20. Each table in the Fellowship Hall will have 5 chairs around them. Those who are not Family or Friends are requested to sit at least three feet apart. The Task Force will meet in July to assess how things are progressing. See the June/July issue of the Good News for more information.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Mark & Tarna Kidder in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Gary & Judy Westerman in honor all military who have served and are currently serving our country

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday June 13

10:15 AM

In-person Meeting in the Sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to interested members on the sale of deFreese Manor to the House of David Preservation Inc, a nonprofit corporation registered in the District of Columbia. The deFreese Manor Board plans to provide a summary of the sale conditions, followed by a Q & A period. The meeting will conclude with a vote of members in attendance at the meeting that Sunday.

Jesus listens to and calms our fears.

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

Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea
Monday	Job 38:1-11	God's rebuke of Job
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	How Paul served God
Wednesday	Psalms 46:1-11	God is our refuge
Thursday	Genesis 17:15-21	Abraham and Sarah
Friday	Isaiah 41:1-10	Israel's assured of God's help
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32	God saves those in distress
Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life



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But [Jesus] was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and [the disciples] woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" **Mark 4:38 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of wind and seas, help us to trust in your power and steadfast love that we may give you praise and serve our neighbor in love through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Living God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be filled with awe at the power and love of God.

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

- ☑ Tell or think about a time you were scared.
- ☑ When do you think of God more, during good times or bad times? Explain.
- ☑ The sea with its awesome views and power is like a parable of how life is filled with both beauty and danger. Where do you see beauty and danger in life? In faith?

Read: Mark 4:35-41.

The disciples are beside themselves with fear. The wind is howling; the waves are crashing over their little boat in a large and churning sea. It seemed like the end for them all. They wake up Jesus with a chorus of screaming cries, "Don't you care that we are going to die?" Jesus describes this as an example of having no faith. After noting their serious limitations as disciples, he calms the wind and the sea. At this point in the story, Jesus exits the discussion and the disciples simply marvel at the power of their teacher. This is the scene of the life of faith. It, too, is a kind of parable, the kind that Jesus had just told his followers. A living and real faith is like being on the waters and vacillating between sheer fear and trembling and simple awe. Although the full breadth of faith experiences from disbelief to true adoration is hard to fathom, it is the life we live. Jesus knows this; Jesus accepts this; Jesus leads us from valley lows to mountain highs with the same understanding, love, and saving grace. When have you experienced serious doubts in your faith? When have you experienced the pure joy of being a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, we thank you for your mercy that cares for us day and night with power and grace through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The disciples were afraid in the stormy, churning sea. The oceans provide food for billions of people. Catching large numbers of fish can be an exhausting and dangerous job. Pray for those who work on the seas including those who fish as well as those who provide security as part of the Coast Guard and Navy.

This Sunday is Father's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all men who have cared for you and others as well. Take time to talk about and give thanks for the lives of all men who parent or otherwise care for and protect our children. Conclude by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for fathers and all men who care for and protect us. We especially give thanks for [names of men] who have been a blessing to our lives. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41**