

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor

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April 2, 2023

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY



GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S GATHERING AT THE ALTAR (9:00 AM)

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

(stand)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

P The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

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

G 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 We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

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

C 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.

(sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Palm Sunday Processional”

by Elaine Schram
Kountze Adult & Children’s Choir

PREFACE

- ☐ As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Everlasting God,
- ☑ **in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:14—27:66

MEDITATION

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus’ compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to “let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God’s redeeming love.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew

READERS: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

I. The betrayal of Judas

- 1: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,
- 2: What will you give me if I betray him to you?
- 3: They paid him thirty pieces of silver.
- 4: And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

II. The last supper

- 1: On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
- 2: Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?
- 1: He said,
- 3: Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, “The Teacher says, my time is near; will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.”
- 4: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.
- 1: When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,
- 3: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.
- 4: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

ALL: Surely not I, Lord?

- 3: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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.
- 1: Judas, who betrayed him, said,
- 2: Surely not I, Rabbi?
- 3: You have said so.
- 4: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,
- 3: Take, eat; this is my body.
- 1: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,
- 3: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.

III. The Mount of Olives

- 1: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,
- 2: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, “I will strike the

shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

- 1: Peter said to him,
- 3: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.
- 2: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.
- 3: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.
- 4: And so said all the disciples.

IV. Gethsemane

- 1: Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,
- 2: Sit here while I go over there and pray.
- 3: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,
- 2: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.
- 1: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,
- 2: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.
- 3: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,
- 2: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- 1: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,
- 2: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.
- 3: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,
- 2: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.
- 1: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,
- 4: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.
- 3: At once he came up to Jesus and said,
- 4: Greetings, Rabbi!
- 3: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,
- 2: Friend, do what you are here to do.
- 3: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.
- 1: Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,
- 2: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than

twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?

- 3: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,
- 2: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.
- 1: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

V. Trial before Caiaphas

- 1: Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,
 - 2: This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days."
 - 1: The high priest stood up and said,
 - 3: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?
 - 1: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,
 - 3: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.
 - 4: You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.
 - 1: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,
 - 3: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?
 - 2: He deserves death!
 - 1: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,
- ALL: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?**

VI. Peter's denial; Judas's death

- 1: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came and said to him,
- 2: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.
- 1: But he denied it before all of them, saying,
- 3: I do not know what you are talking about.
- 4: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,
- 2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.
- 4: Again he denied it with an oath,
- 3: I do not know the man!
- 1: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

ALL: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

- 1: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,
- 3: I do not know the man!
- 1: At that moment the cock crowed.
- 4: Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.
- 1: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.
- 4: They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.
- 1: When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,
- 3: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.
- 2: What is that to us? See to it yourself.
- 1: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.
- 4: But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,
- 2: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.
- 4: After conferring together, they used the money to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners.
- 1: For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

VII. Jesus before Pilate

- 1: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,
- 2: Are you the King of the Jews?
- 3: You say so.
- 4: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,
- 2: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?
- 1: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.
- 4: Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,
- 2: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?
- 1: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was

sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him saying, "Have nothing to do with this innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

- 4: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,
- 2: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

ALL: Barabbas!

- 2: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

ALL: Let him be crucified!

- 2: Why, what evil has he done?

ALL: Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified!

- 1: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,
- 2: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

ALL: His blood be on us and on our children.

- 4: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.
- 1: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took a reed and struck him on the head. And after mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

VIII. Golgotha

- 1: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.
- 2: And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.
- 1: Over his head they put the charge against him which read,

ALL: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

- 1: Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,
- 3: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.
- 2: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

ALL: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.

2: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

IX. Jesus' death

1: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

2: And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

3: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

2: that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

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

4: This man is calling for Elijah.

2: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

ALL: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

1: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Pause

1: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

2: Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

ALL: Truly this man was God's Son!

2: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

X. Burial

1: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and rapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

2: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

3: Sir, we remember what that imposter said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from

the dead” and the last deception would be worse than the first.

1: Pilate said to them,

4: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

2: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

ALL: The gospel of the Lord.

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

☐ 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: 📖 Merciful God,
 📖 receive our prayer.

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

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Giada Marisol, daughter of Leon & Sheila Valquier (4/2/2023)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Marlys Bergjord, mother of Judi Bergjord

Prayers This Week: Myrna Carter, Karen Jacobson

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Joel Brown, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Kathy Preninger, Bess Swanson, Darlene White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, 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; Katie Larson, Columbia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*— Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

THE PEACE IS SHARED

📖 The peace of Christ be with you always.
📖 And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. 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 or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"At the Foot of the Cross"


Lee Dengler
Kountze Adult Choir

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

ELW 512



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.

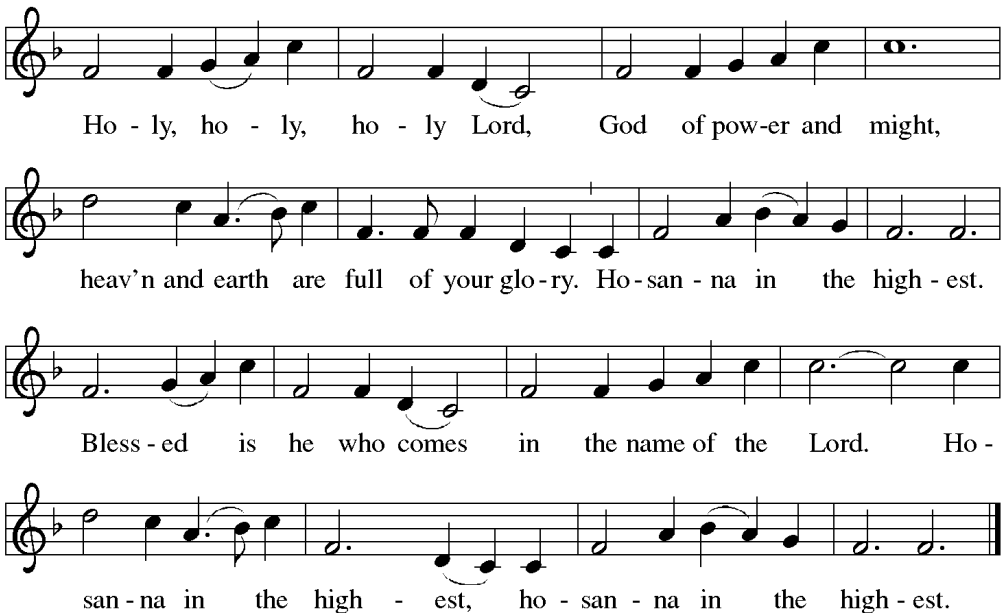
OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of good gifts,
C receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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.
- 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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho-san-na in the high-est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P** O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** With your holy ones of all times and places, ...
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.**

AGNUS DEI



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come and receive Jesus,
- C** our strength in the wilderness.

(sit)

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 who 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. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Prière”

by Saint-Seán's
Sam Pierce-Ruhland, *cello*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Jesus, I will ponder now
on your holy passion;
let your Spirit now endow
me for meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
may the image cherish
of your suff'ring, pain, and death,
that I may not perish.</p> <p>2 Make me see your great distress,
anguish, and affliction,
bonds and blows and wretchedness
and your crucifixion;
make me see how scourge and rod,
spear and nails, did wound you,
how you died for those, O God,
who with thorns had crowned you.</p> | <p>3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
make me see your passion,
but its cause to me make known
and its termination.
For I also and my sin
wrought your deep affliction;
this the shameful cause has been
of your crucifixion.</p> <p>4 Let me view your pain and loss
with repentant grieving,
nor prepare again your cross
by unholy living.
May I give you love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
that I may in heav'n above
sing your praise forever.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.</p> <p><i>Refrain</i>
In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.</p> <p>2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>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. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

(stand)

COMMUNION BLESING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Embodied God,
☑ at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- ☐ God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN



“My Song is Love Unknown”

LBW 94 vs. 1, 3, 4

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior’s love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?</p> | <p>3 Sometimes they strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry,
and for his death they thirst and cry.</p> |
| <p>4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and ’gainst him rise;
themselves displease, and ’gainst him rise.</p> | |

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683

DISMISSAL

-  Go in peace. Serve in love.
-  **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Largo”

by Chopin
Sam Pierce-Ruhland, *cello*



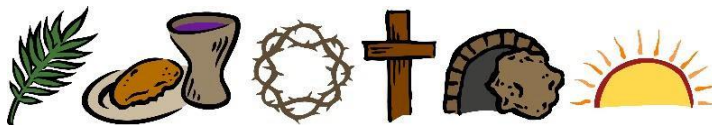
*We thank Sam Pierce-Ruhland and the Kountze Choirs
for their musical offerings this Palm Sunday*

Passion readers:

9:00 AM
Arianna Ascadi
Filip Boskamp
Lilly Kassel
Dannika Rees
ALL: Congregation

11:00 AM
Deb Hinrichs
James Holzer
Judith Poffenbarger
Ashley Sum
ALL: Congregation

HOLY WEEK



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 3, 4, & 5

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 6

11:00 AM Lunch (free-will offering)

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Dinner (free-will offering)

6:30 PM Worship & First Communion (Nursery care is available for children ages infant – 4 years in the nursery located near the Fellowship Hall. Please ask an Usher for directions.)

Good Friday, April 7

12-3 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir

6:30 PM Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows) (Nursery care is available for children ages infant – 4 years in the nursery located near the Fellowship Hall. Please ask an Usher for directions.)

Holy Saturday, April 8

10 PM Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist) (There will be no 5 PM Saturday service)

Easter Sunday, April 9

7:30 AM Festival of the Resurrection in the Link

8 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast

9 & 11 AM Festival of the Resurrection

10:10 AMish Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space after the 9:00 AM service

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

April 1 & 2, 2023

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshipping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Today at Kountze

Altar Palm Arrangements We thank James Pierson for the beautiful palm arrangements he made for us. James has given two of the arrangements to the glory of God in memory of Richard Bock.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God sponsored by Laurine Savine in thanksgiving of all who made my 98th birthday a gracious one.

Kountze Café
9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Children's Choir
Second Floor Music Room
Sundays, 9:15 AM—(after the 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)
Grades K-5 - Choir
Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

Sunday School
Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs.) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Youth Forum
Grades 7—12

7th - 12th graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Easter Preparation **Next week:** Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Adult Forum
Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Palm Sunday (Fellowship) **Next Week:** Easter Sunday (Fellowship)

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Today at Kountze, *continued*

March Service Project

The Sunday School continues to collect items for the Nebraska Humane Society for the March service project. Items can be brought to church and left in front of the Sunday School office. A list of donations can be found on the Humane Society website and include standard items of food, treats, toys, blankets, and more. Items to be gathered also include many recyclable items such as cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, and plastic coffee containers.

South Stained Glass Window

If you haven't already, be sure to come to the front of the Nave sometime before or after the service and look back at our beautiful, newly installed, stained glass window. We look forward to having the East window installed sometime in the not too distant future.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 2 Sunday

Palm Sunday
Homebound Communion
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

April 3 Monday

Monday in Holy Week
10:00 AM Pantry
12:15 PM Worship

April 4 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:15 PM Worship

April 5 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week
12:15 PM Worship

April 6 Thursday

Maundy Thursday
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship and First Communion

April 7 Friday

Good Friday
12:00—3:00 PM Ecumenical Worship
6:30 PM Worship

April 8 Saturday

Easter Vigil
10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship (no 5:00 PM service)

April 9 Sunday

Easter
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast
7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

April 10 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Lutheran Women Omaha (LWO)

Tuesday, April 11, 12:00 Noon
Immanuel Lutheran Church-- Benson
Reservations to Faith, 402 734 4629

Our Lenten Focus "Unfinished"

UNFINISHED – Discovering God's Call in Not Yet is written by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox and will be our focus for Sundays of Lent. She writes, "The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, "we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate this unfinished life by ourselves. God is here - present-tense, each and every day - calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us - over and over again."

We will be using the lectionary readings to focus on the following themes:

- April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday, Called to Experience God's Presence
- April 9 Easter Sunday, Called to Resurrection

UNFINISHED Digital Devotions are also available on our church website, through links in the weekly e-news or use the QR code here. There are a few options that you might find helpful:

- Weekly Wednesday Jonah – Children and Family Ideas
- Weekly Sunday Lectionary – Children and Family Ideas
- Near and Now Weekly Bible Study
- Daily Unfinished Devotional
- Weekly Vocare Guided Meditations and Videos

You won't want to miss the chance to honor the space between no longer and not yet!"



Maundy Thursday

Meals Served 11:00 AM – Noon & 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Worship—12:15 & 6:30 PM

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert. Meals are free will offering. Please remember that there is **No Parking** in the Methodist parking lot to the north of our handicapped entrance on Wednesdays - or any week day - from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. You may park on Farnam Street at the meters for 25 cents per hour, in our parking lot on the west side of the building, or in the deFreese parking lot.

Menu for Thursday, April 6

Whatever is in the Freezer Smorgasbord

Have your favorites again or try something new

Dessert—Cake at 5:00 PM

Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers Needed

We are still in need of a few Worship Assistants for Holy Week and Easter:

Lector—Easter, 7:30 AM

Communion Assistant—Easter, 7:30 and 9:00 AM

Ushers—Good Friday 3-hour Service, 6:30 PM, Easter Vigil, Easter morning, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

- If you can help as a Lector or Communion Assistant, please sign up on SignUp Genius.
- If you can help as an Usher, please sign up in the back of the Nave or at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall. You can also call the church office.

Thanks for your help serving during Worship

KMLC Quilters & All Interested in Quilting

Wednesday, April 12

11:30 AM

Join us for a Lunch together in the Fellowship Hall following the regular monthly quilting time. We will then head over to Gallery 1516 on Leavenworth for the "Modern Quilting on the Prairie" Exhibit. If you are able to join us, please sign up or call the church office by Monday, April 10.

An Afternoon of Playing Cards with Friends

Interest has been expressed for a gathering of people on a weekday afternoon to play cards together.

If this is something that you would be interested in participating in, please sign up or call the church office and let us know what weekday afternoon is best for you.

Kountze Pantry

Thanks to all of you who helped us save receipts from Family Fare! The good news is we raised thousands of dollars. The bad news is the program has ended, so we no longer need the receipts. The Kountze Food Pantry is in the process of partnering with Family Fare in a new reward program. We are still collecting hygiene products for our guests, especially feminine supplies and shaving razors and cream. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

Holy Week at Kountze



Palm Sunday, April 1 & 2

9 & 11 AM

Eucharist with Palm Procession and Passion Reading

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 3, 4, and 5

12:15 PM

Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 6

11:00 AM

Lunch (free-will offering)

12:15 PM

Worship

5:00 PM

Dinner (free-will offering)

6:30 PM

Worship & First Communion (Nursery care is available for children ages infant – 4 years in the nursery located near the Fellowship Hall. Please ask an Usher for directions.)

Good Friday, April 7

12:00-3:00 PM

Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir

6:30 PM

Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows) (Nursery)

Holy Saturday, April 8

10:00 PM

Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist) (There will be no 5:00 PM Saturday service)

Easter Sunday, April 9

7:30 AM

Festival of the Resurrection in the Link

8 - 10:45 AM

Easter Breakfast

9 & 11 AM

Festival of the Resurrection

10:00 AMish

Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space after the 9:00 AM service

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 95 11:00: 57

Wednesday: 12:15: 30 6:30: 65

Total: 280

Streaming: 71 (inc. Wednesday)

Pantry Guests Served: 797 (inc. 344 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$13,473.33 (Regular)

\$1,974.72 (Specials)

\$682.66 (Debt Reduction)

From cheers to rejection to triumph.

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Matthew 26:14-27:66	Jesus' trial and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	The servant's humiliation
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1-19:42	Jesus suffers and dies
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for protection
Sunday	John 20:1-18	Christ's resurrection



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:5-8 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, from the cross you triumph over all the forces that lead us away from you; give us faith to follow the way of the cross through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Suffering God, in a world where many lack the food they need, help us to care for others as you care for us with this meal today. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you with the steadfast love of the cross of Christ. (Psalm 31:16)

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

- When was a time you were part of a crowd that was cheering loudly?
- If you were part of the crowd cheering for Barabbas to be set free instead of Jesus, why do you think you would do that?

Read: Matthew 26:14-27:66.

What we experience in life can help us see things in the Bible we might otherwise miss. For example, in the age of social divisions we witness today, we can understand how very fragile a democracy can be. Pilate gave the crowds a moment to be a democracy by asking them who to free, Jesus or Barabbas. The crowds chose Barabbas. The week before, crowds were cheering on Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Within a week the crowds saw things differently. Jesus takes our fickleness, our lack of insight, our willingness to follow the crowd with him to the cross. It is all part of our brokenness that fails to see the truth of Jesus. However, our failures do not stop God's plan. God's plan—God's will—according to Philippians 2:10-11 is that *“at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”* From the cross we learn that our foolish ways as individuals and as a society will not conquer God's will.

Discuss: How do you tell the difference between the will of God and the will of a crowd?

Pray: **Suffering God, you know how we fail you and yet you love us all the way to the cross; give us faith and wisdom to follow you all the days of our lives through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you care for people whom others look on with disrespect?

This coming week is Holy Week. We remember the journey of Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem to his last meal, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. These stories are central to our faith. Choose a space in your home to observe Holy Week. Each day, add an item (listed below), think or talk about its role in the Passion story, and close with the prayer.

Sunday: Palm branch, **Monday:** Bottle of perfume, **Tuesday:** Coins, **Wednesday:** Bowl of water, **Thursday:** Bread, **Friday:** Nails, **Saturday:** Stone. After placing an item each day, pray: **Eternal God, help us to grow in our faith so that we may be faithful witnesses to the power of Jesus' resurrection. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10