

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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March 13, 2024

6:30 PM

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE

PRELUDE

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

☛ Amen.

☞ Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ God, our rock and refuge,

☛ we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

☞ Hear this flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

☛ Amen.

- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞** Mender of division,
☞ you sent Christ to heal the world and gather those on the margins. Bring your healing power to us. May we extend your power and grace to those separated from their communities and those longing for a tangible sign of your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
- ☞** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
☞ Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 5:1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; ⁴for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹²and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them

how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." ²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

HOMILY

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW 603 vs. 1,3,4

**1 God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.**

**3 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.**

**4 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.**

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God of mercy,
C hold us in love.

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 LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The creator who fashions us together with all things,
the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community,
the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints,
one God, ✠ bless you now and always.

G Amen.

HYMN

Now It Is Evening

ELW 572

(Sung to the tune of Morning Has Broken ELW 556)

1 Now it is evening: lights of the city
bid us remember Christ is our light.
Many are lonely, who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring, Christ is our light.

2 Now it is evening: food on the table
bids us remember Christ is our life.
Many are hungry, who will be neighbor?
Where there is sharing, Christ is our life.

3 Now it is evening: little ones sleeping
bid us remember Christ is our peace.
Some are neglected, who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring, Christ is our peace.

4 Now it is evening: here in our meeting
may we remember Christ is our friend.
Some may be strangers, who will be neighbor?
Where there's a welcome, Christ is our friend.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

G Thanks be to God!

All are welcome to come forward and light a candle.

You may kneel for prayer at the railing, pray at your seat, or pray at the foot of the cross.

You may also come forward to pray with a Pastor.

Depart in Silence

✠ ✠ ✠