

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor
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March 24, 2024

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY



PRELUDE

Arioso

J S Bach
Greg Clinton, *cello*

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

My Lord What a Morning

arr. Mark Hayes
Stephanie A. Stephens, soloist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

(rise in body or spirit)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-11

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 454.

P The holy gospel according to Saint Mark.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

Blessed is The One

Nathan Houge
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

- ☐ Sovereign God,
☑ **you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

GOSPEL

Mark 14:1-15:47

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 Mark

- 1: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
- 3: 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;
- 2: for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."
- 3: Then Judas Iscariot, who as one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them.
- 1: When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money.
- 2: So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.
- 1: On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, at evening Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,
- 3: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, the one who is eating with me."
- 1: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?"
- 3: Jesus said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.
- 2: 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."
- 1: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."
- 3: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

- 1: Jesus said to them, “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.”
- 2: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
- 1: And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written,
- 2: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”
- 3: Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.”
- 1: Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”
- 3: But Peter said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”
- 1: And all of them said the same.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW 347 vs. 1

**1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

- 3: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”
- 2: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.
- 1: And Jesus said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.”
- 2: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible the hour might pass from him.
- 3: He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.
- 1: Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?
- 2: Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- 3: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.
- 2: 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.
- 3: Jesus came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
- 1: Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”
- 2: Immediately, while Jesus 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.

- 3: Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”
- 1: So when he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.
- 2: Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.
- 3: But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.
- 2: Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?”
- 3: Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scripture be fulfilled.”

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351 vs. 1

**1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

- 2: All of them deserted him and fled.
- 1: A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.
- 2: They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.
- 3: They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.
- 1: Peter had following him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.
- 2: Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.
- 1: For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.
- 3: Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “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.’”
- 2: But even on this point their testimony did not agree.
- 1: Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”
- 2: But he was silent and did not answer.
- 1: Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”
- 2: Jesus said, “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.’”

- 3: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?”
- 1: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351 vs. 3

**3 What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

- 3: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.
- 1: When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”
- 2: But Peter denied it, saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” And he went out into the forecourt.
- 3: Then the cock crowed.
- 2: And the servant girl, on seeing him, began to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.”
- 3: But again he denied it.
- 1: Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”
- 2: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know this man you are talking about.”
- 1: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”
- 3: And he broke down and wept. 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.
- 2: Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.”
- 3: Then the chief priests accused him of many things.
- 1: Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”
- 3: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.
- 2: Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.
- 3: Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.
- 1: So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”
- 2: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

- 3: But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.
- 1: Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"
- 2: They shouted back, "Crucify him!"
- 3: Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?"
- 2: But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!"
- 1: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

HYMN

Were You There

ELW 353 vs. 1

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

Text: African American spiritual

- 3: Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and the called together the whole cohort.
- 2: And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.
- 1: And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
- 2: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.
- 3: 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.
- 2: 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.
- 3: Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).
- 1: And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.
- 2: And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.
- 1: 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."

The congregation rises in body or spirit

- 2: And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.
- 1: Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"
- 3: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he can not save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."
- 2: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

- 3** **Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Text: African American spiritual

- 1: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
 2: At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
 3: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."
 2: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."
 1: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Ten seconds of silence

- 3: And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
 1: Now when the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"
 2: 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.
 1: He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.
 3: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 5** **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual

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: ☞ Hear us, O God.

☩ **Your mercy is great.**

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

Thanksgiving: for the marriage of Miles & Lauren Peterson

Prayers This Week: Barb Carlsen, Martha Eckmann, Bob Fleming, Bob Woodworth

On-going Care: Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Jim Perkins, Marce Picha, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Evelyn Sueper, Gary Westerman, 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, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, 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* – James Holzer, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks

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

Come to the Cross

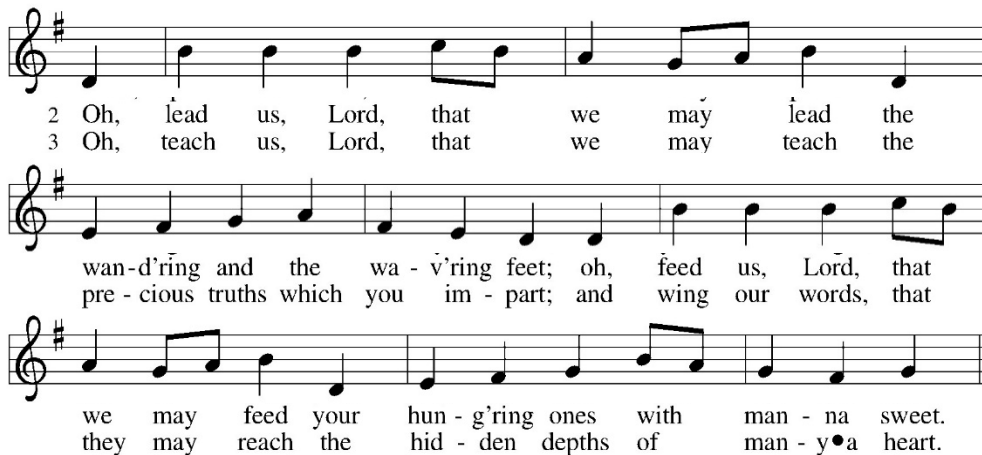
Joseph Martin
Greg Clinton, *cellist*
Kountze Adult Choir

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW 676 vs. 2 & 3



2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the

wan-d'ring and the wa-v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre-cious truths which you im-part; and wing our words, that

we may feed your hun-g'ring ones with man-na sweet.
they may reach the hid-den depths of man-y•a heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Jesus, you are the bread of life and host of this meal.
- ☑ **Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

- Ⓟ The Lord be with you.
- Ⓞ **And also 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

- Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

☑ **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



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.





Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

-  A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
-  We come to receive bread for the journey.

(sit)

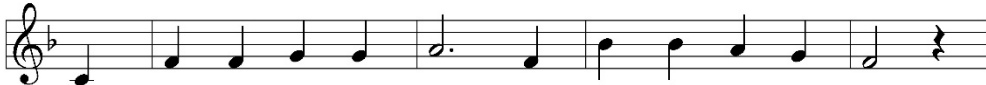
THE DISTRIBUTION

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.

- 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 suffering, pain, and death,
that I may not perish.**
- 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.**

- 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.**
- 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.**

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



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
 re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

(rise in body or spirit)

COMMUNION BLESING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God,

C at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

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

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

Refrain

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

**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***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Share your bread.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi
Greg Clinton, *cello*



*We thank Greg Clinton and the Kountze Choirs
for their musical offerings this Palm Sunday*

Passion readers:

9:00 AM

Tina Broekemeier
Jacob Weiland
Cookie Lenners

11:00 AM

Deb Hinrichs
James Holzer
Jacob Rump

HOLY WEEK



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 25, 26, & 27

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

Maundy Thursday, March 28

11 AM Lunch (free-will offering)

12:15 PM Worship

5 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, March 29

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)

Holy Saturday, March 30

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

Easter Sunday, March 31

7:30 AM Festival of the Resurrection in the Link

8 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast

9 & 11:00 AM Festival of the Resurrection

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



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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Barrett	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
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 23 & 24, 2024

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 worshiping, 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 the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

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. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

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 Memorial

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

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.

Faith Formation

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms.

Children's Choir

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-6

No Children's Choir this Sunday or on Easter. This Sunday the children will be singing at the beginning of both the 9 and 11 AM services. After they sing, they will be able to sit with their families. On April 7, they will again be able to join Amy Pignatore on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Youth Forum

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

Lower Level Youth Room

Grab your breakfast and meet each Sunday. Join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other.

This Week: Games

Next Week: Serving Easter Breakfast

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This Week:** Fellowship (Palm Sunday) and Blessing & Sending of James Holzer

Next Week: Fellowship (Easter Sunday)

First Communion Class Continues

Sundays, March 24

12:15 PM (after 11:00 AM Worship)

First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 28.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

March 24 Sunday

Palm Sunday
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM First Communion Class

March 25 Monday

Monday in Holy Week
10:00 AM Pantry
12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM HGFC Board

March 26 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:15 PM Worship
12:30 PM Circle 3

March 27 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week
12:15 PM Worship

March 28 Thursday

Maundy Thursday
First Communion
11:00 AM Lenten Meal
11:00 AM Circle 4
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Meal

March 29 Friday

Good Friday
12:00 -3:00 PM Ecumenical Service
6:30 PM Worship

March 30 Saturday

Easter Vigil
No 5:00 PM Worship
10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship

March 31 Sunday

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

April 1 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM Pantry

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Maundy Thursday

"Created for Community"

Thursday, March 28

- Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM (6:30 PM is live-streamed)
- Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon (free-will offering)
- Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM (free-will offering)

Join us for a meal followed by Worship. Everyone is welcome.

Menu for March 28

Freezer Fest Finale

A little of this and a little of that!

Have more of one of your favorites

or try something new.

Dessert

Love Thy Neighbor Food Drive

Now through March 31

The Kountze Food Pantry will hold a spring food drive this Lenten season to show how we Love Thy Neighbor. The Love Thy Neighbor food drive is also to honor Wayne Simmonds and the generosity of Sherri Labeledz and Terri Gogetap, who named the pantry Love Thy Neighbor to honor their father. Sherri, Terri, and their father, Wayne, have been faithful and generous members of Kountze

Memorial Lutheran Church. Wayne loved the Kountze Food Pantry and made it a priority to volunteer at this very special ministry to help "the least of these" in our community. The Pantry is in need of unexpired, nonperishable foods in cans, boxes, and plastic jars (no glass jars please). Possible donations may include canned beans, meats (chicken or tuna), vegetables, fruits, and soups/stews - pop-top cans are a plus, boxes of crackers, granola bars, oatmeal, pasta, rice, instant potatoes, and plastic jars of peanut butter or pasta sauce. There are pantry drop off locations in the Fellowship Hall, the accessible entrance, and the Narthex. Please encourage your fellow parishioners, family, friends, coworkers, and social circles to help in this wonderful cause! We would love the support from clubs and troops as well. Questions or need to arrange a delivery of food? Please contact Jill Conway at 402-341-7761, ex. 222 or:

jill@kmlchurch.org or jill@kountzecommons.org.

Easter Book Group

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

1:00 PM

Place TBD

Pastor Lucy & Mia Valquier, together with the youth and

young adults of Kountze, would like to invite you to an Easter Book Group. We will be reading & discussing the book *The Everyday Advocate: Living Out Your Calling to Social Justice* by Ross Murray. The group will meet on **Sunday afternoons in April** (possibly at a coffee/brunch spot!). Please find a copy of the book for yourself or let Pastor Lucy know if you need help finding/purchasing a copy. The church has a couple of copies that can be borrowed. Ross Murray was the featured speaker at the annual Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly last fall. He is an ordained deacon in the ELCA, vice president at the GLAAD Media Institute, and the founding director of the Naming Project, a faith-based youth ministry and summer camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies. You may sign up at the Welcome Desk, email or call the church office, or online at:

<https://form.jotform.com/232355457100044>

Middle School Gathering 2.0

**My Story is Your Story is Christ's Story is Our Story
April 13, 2024**

Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln, NE

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

A Synod-wide day of service for middle school youth (5th-9th grade) to gather and learn to share Christ's story as they explore how daily experiences and interactions shape our faith stories. "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) The cost for this retreat will be covered. **Let the church office know by March 31 if you would like to be registered to attend this event.**

New Member Classes

April 14 & 21

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, May 5 (please note date change). Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling

If you didn't get a chance to register for camp by the Early Bird pricing deadline (January 31), Kountze Memorial will still cover the cost of the Early Bird pricing, but you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 16-21, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps at <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

- In order for the church to pay the fee, choose
 - to mail your payment,
 - select "Pay items in Full"
 - then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
 - Email a copy of the receipt to shari@kmlchurch.org
- We will then submit the Early Bird portion of the

payment on behalf of your youth. You'll need to mail in your portion. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to:

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you to everyone who donated toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for our guests at the Kountze Food Pantry. Our goal is to always have these items available along with soap and razors. In April, we are collecting disposable razors and shaving cream or foam. Currently the greatest and most urgent need is for volunteers. A small group of dedicated faithful are receiving, moving and restocking almost 10,000 lbs. of goods every Monday morning. If you or anyone you know can assist us in our mission of "Feeding the Poor, in Christ's Name", please sign up at the link below:

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



Holy Week is the most sacred week in the liturgical year and begins with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus

Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We gather on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to meditate on Jesus' final days before his death on the cross. Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Jesus' death by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday. We gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, on Saturday—Easter Vigil—proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. We gather on Easter morning to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world.

Please see the Holy Week & Easter schedule of services on the calendar and the back of this week's bulletin. We hope you are able to join us as we walk through Holy Week toward Easter Sunday.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 3/14/2024—Wednesday, 3/20/2024

Saturday: 33

Sunday: 9:00: 125 11:00: 78

Wednesday: 12:15: 37 6:30: 64

Streaming: 51

Pantry Guests Served: 1,023 (inc. 386 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering:

\$12,070.47 (Regular) \$2,510.36 (Specials)

\$262.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem gives us hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Mark 14:1–15:47	The passion of Jesus
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	A servant song
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	The Christ hymn
Thursday	Zechariah 9:9-13	Judgment on Israel's enemies
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	The passion of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 11:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to see beyond our short-sightedness to the hope that is for all of us through the cross of Christ, that we may have life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, blessed are you, the one who comes to us with this gift of food in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and hope.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know felt rejected or sad.
- What is it about God's steadfast love that is deserving of your praise, especially as you think about Jesus' journey to the cross?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 11:1-11.

It is not just by chance that the crowds who shout, "Hosanna!" days later also shout, "Crucify him" (Mark 15:13). This contrast leads us to look back to the beginning of the Gospel of Mark where Jesus' first message is, "the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15b). To repent is to change one's mind, to see new things, and to see things differently. The crowds shouting, "Hosanna" have a customary view of power and authority. The power Jesus brings is quite different from the authority of leaders filled with jealousy and fear like the high priests and Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus' humble rule is displayed from a colt and is filled with self-giving love that conquers all, even triumphing over his own rejection and death. Palm Sunday points to a kingdom with good news and hope for the rejected and those who feel powerless. To truly hear the good news is to repent of anything less than Jesus' rule that alone gives us reason to say, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (v. 9).

Discuss: What makes it difficult for you to see Jesus' power and glory from the cross?

Pray: **God of power and might, in a world torn apart by fear and jealousy, help us to see in your reign on earth the true source of hope through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bring hope to someone who may be feeling rejected?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he knows the week will not end the way the people praising him will want. And yet, Jesus accepts the people's dreams and hopes and takes them to the cross with him. He turns those dreams and hopes into something more. Light six candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross. *Then pray:* **Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us. Help us to live for you. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: