

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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April 2, 2025

12:15

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE



(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P God of all grace, be near in the midst of our brokenness, turning us from the things that keep us from right relationship with you, ourselves, and one another. Compel us toward compassion as we confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and strengthened to serve in your name

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

C you delight in goodness and judge sin. Give us open and honest hearts to recognize the ways we have turned from you, from our own belovedness, and from one another. We see the world through the lens of scarcity instead of your lens of abundance. We see people as us and them instead of one body in you. We participate in the brokenness of the world, caught in webs beyond individual choices of right and wrong. Quiet our inner and outer strife, O God, and draw us into your forgiveness and wholeness. Through your divine love, transform all that threatens to destroy the good that you have created.

P Beloved people of God:

At a table that Jesus sets, God forgives us and feeds us with love eternal. In water and promise, God brings us to new life and breathes into us gifts to serve the world. You are forgiven, in the name of Christ ✝, who calls us into the coming of God's reign where all are supported, nourished, and loved.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of grace,

C you compel your whole creation toward mercy. Help us embody your unconditional grace and love to all living things, participating in the coming of your reign, where all are supported, nourished, welcomed and loved. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

READING

Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

**1 Our Father, we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling,
we hear you call our name.**

**2 And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.**

**3 O Lord of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.**

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THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God, in your mercy
 C receive our prayer.

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

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

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Generous God,
- C** you have blessed us with gifts of abundance and joy. Open our hearts so that we may share your goodness with all who hunger for bread, for safety, and for belonging. In Christ's name we pray. 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,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** Blessed are you, O God of love. ...
... Compel your whole creation toward mercy, and fill us all with your everlasting and wide-reaching love.
- C** Amen.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come!

C **The feast of grace is spread.**

(sit)

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.

(rise in body or spirit)

THE BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Gracious God,

C **we give you thanks for the abundance of your steadfast love. As we are filled with your grace and mercy, send us out into the world to participate in your reign of peace. In the name of Christ, the holy one, we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

☐ May the God who delights in your goodness bless you, keep you, and hold you in the depths of love and mercy. In the name of the Triune God ✙.

☑ Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

What Is the World Like

ACS 1047 vs. 2-5

2 What is the world like when God's will is
 3 What is the world like when God's will is
 4 What is the world like when God's will is
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -

done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 done? No more is neigh - bor just
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who

child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our

par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

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DISMISSAL

☐ Go in peace, know you are loved.

☑ Thanks be to God!



Worship with us this Lenten Season!

Wednesdays in Lent

- 12:15 PM Lenten Worship
- 11:00 – Noon Lenten Lunch (free-will offering)
- 6:30 PM Lenten Worship (in person and Livestream)
- 5:00 – 6:30 PM Lenten Dinner (free-will offering)



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