

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
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April 13, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY



PRELUDE

Suite in C Major, III. Courante

J S Bach
Tim Strang, *cello*

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

(rise in body or spirit)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Luke 19:28-40

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

P The holy gospel according to Saint Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

After he had said this, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

“Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

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

Hosanna in the Highest

David W. Music
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

- ☞ O God of mercy and might,
☞ **in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

GOSPEL

Luke 22:14—23:56

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 Luke

- 1: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

- 2: "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
1: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,
2: "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
1: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
2: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
1: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,
2: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"
1: Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

- 2: "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
- 1: And he said to him,
- 3: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"
- 1: Jesus said,
- 2: "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."
- 1: He said to them,
- 2: "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"
- 1: They said,
- 3: "No, not a thing."
- 1: He said to them,
- 2: "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."
- 1: They said,
- 3: "Lord, look, here are two swords."
- 1: He replied
- 2: "It is enough."
- 1: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,
- 2: "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."
- 1: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,
- 2: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."
- 1: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,
- 2: "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."
- 1: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,
- 2: "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"
- 1: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,
- 3: "Lord, should we strike with the sword?"
- 1: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,
- 2: "No more of this!"

- 1: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,
- 2: “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”
- 1: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,
- 4: “This man also was with him.”
- 1: But he denied it, saying,
- 3: “Woman, I do not know him.”
- 1: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,
- 4: “You also are one of them.”
- 1: But Peter said,
- 3: “Man, I am not!”
- 1: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,
- 4: “Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.”
- 1: But Peter said,
- 3: “Man, I do not know what you are talking about!”
- 1: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,
- 4: “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”
- 1: They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,
- 3: “If you are the Messiah, tell us.”
- 1: He replied,
- 2: “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”
- 1: All of them asked,
- 3: “Are you, then, the Son of God?”
- 1: He said to them,
- 2: “You say that I am.”
- 1: Then they said,
- 3: “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”

**1 What wondrous love is this,
 O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this
 that caused the Lord of bliss
 to bear the dreadful curse
 for my soul, for my soul,
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**2 When I was sinking down,
 sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down
 beneath God's righteous frown,
 Christ laid aside his crown
 for my soul, for my soul,
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

- 1: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,
- 3: "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."
- 1: Then Pilate asked him,
- 4: "Are you the king of the Jews?"
- 1: He answered,
- 2: "You say so."
- 1: Then Pilate said to the chief of priests and the crowds,
- 4: "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."
- 1: But they were insistent and said,
- 3: "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."
- 1: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,
- 4: "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."
- 1: Then they all shouted out together,
- 3: "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"
- 1: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; 21 but they kept shouting,
- 3: "Crucify, crucify him!"
- 1: A third time he said to them,

- 4: “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”
- 1: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,
- 2: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

The congregation rises in body or spirit

- 1: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,
- 2: “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”
- 1: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,
- 4: “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”
- 1: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,
- 3: “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”
- 1: There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,
- 4: “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”
- 1: But the other rebuked him, saying,
- 3: “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”
- 1: Then he said,
- 3: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
- 1: He replied,
- 2: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”
- 1: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,
- 2: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”
- 1: Having said this, he breathed his last.

A brief silence

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

4: "Certainly this man was innocent."

1: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

A time of silence for reflection

P This is the Gospel of our Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SONG OF REFLECTION

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666 vs. 3 & 4

**3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of JoAnne Whitmyre

Prayers this week: Nancy Meyer

On-going Care: Sharon Ambler, Cheri Biggs, John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg Jessica Hannon, Julie Hoogestraat, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, Donna Reinig, David Samaria, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens

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; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, 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* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G 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

The Cross Was His Own

Lee Dengler
Tim Strang, *cellist*
Kountze Adult Choir

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359 vs. 1-3



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;

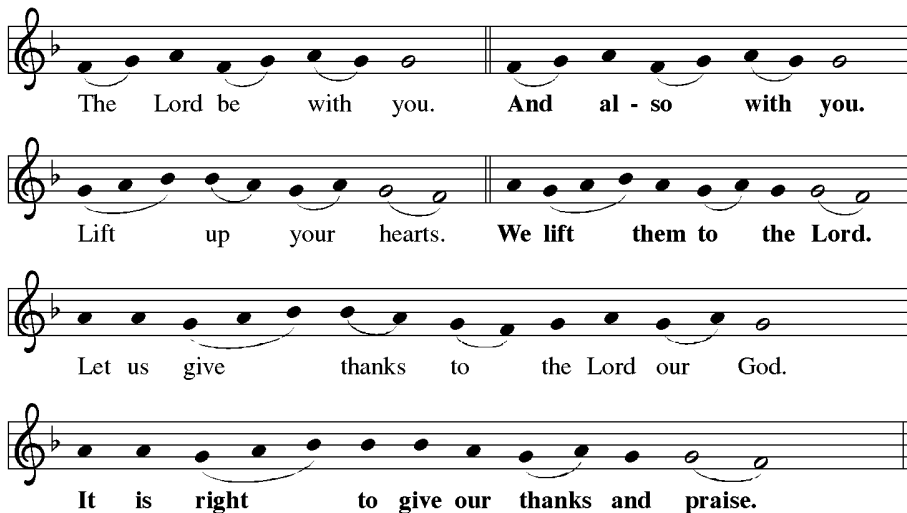
brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞ Gracious Provider,
☞ you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

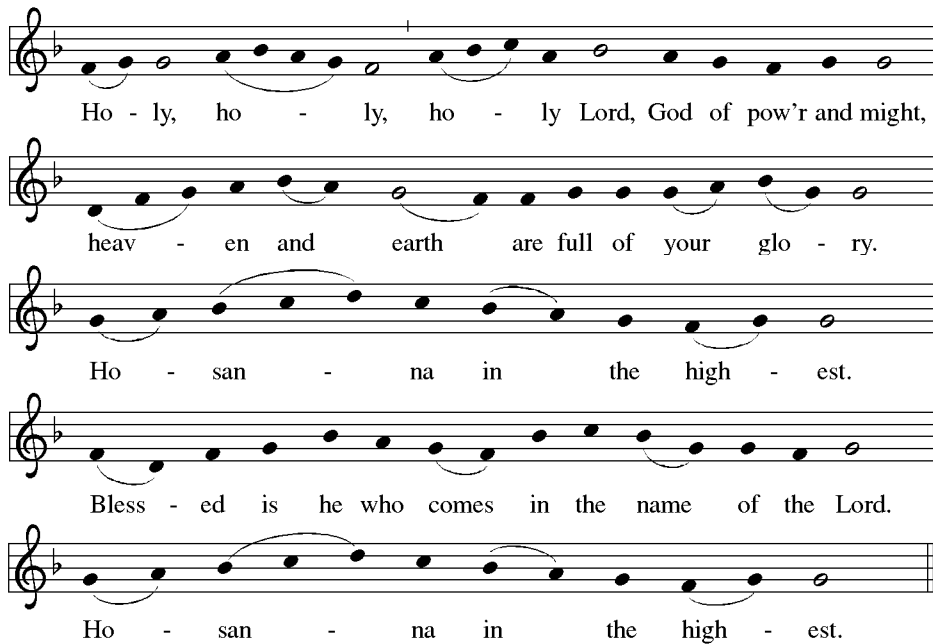
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

- ☐ 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,

heav - en 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.

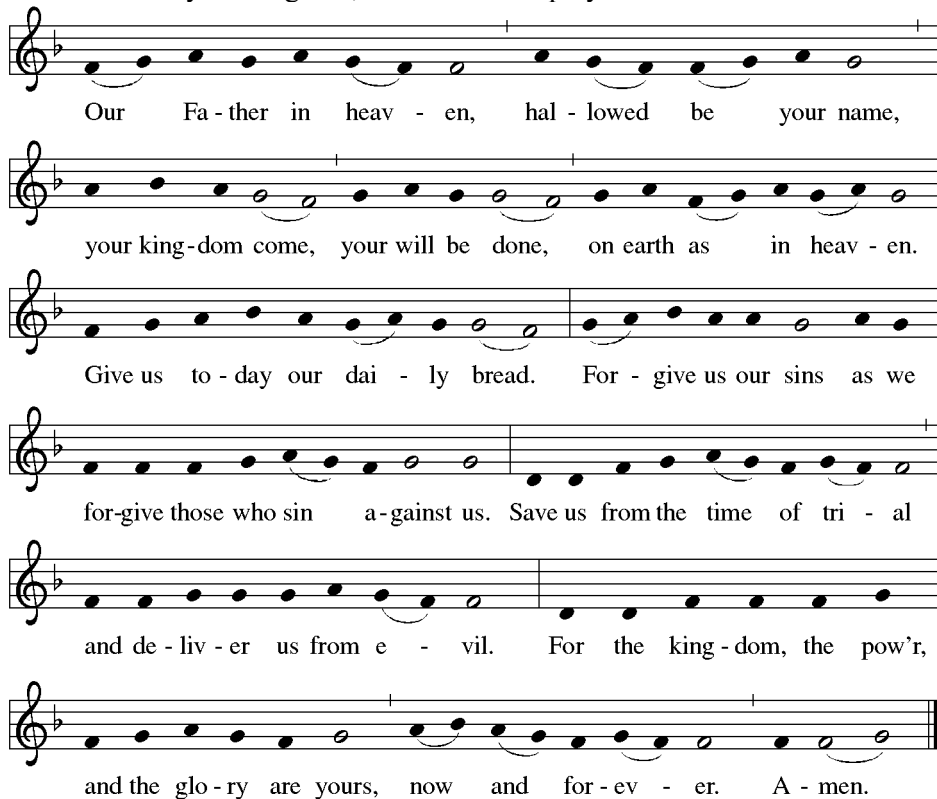
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ All who are hungry, come!
- ☑ The feast of grace is spread.

(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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION*Jesus, I will Ponder Now***ELW 345**

- 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.**
- 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.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683

(rise in body or spirit)

COMMUNION BLESING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous Host,

G you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

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. Care for others as God cares for you.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Suite in C Minor, VI. Gigue

J S Bach
Tim Strang, *cello*



*We thank Tim Strang and the Kountze Choirs
for their musical offerings this Palm Sunday*

Passion readers:

9:00 AM

Amy Wemhoff
Gwen Wemhoff
Nick Wemhoff
Wyat Wemhoff

11:00 AM

Joseph Daffer
Deb Hinrichs
Steve Hinrichs
Ann Miller

HOLY WEEK



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 14, 15, 16

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 17

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, April 18

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, April 19

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

Easter Sunday, April 20

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. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

April 12 & 13, 2025

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 165 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.

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.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

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

Scan to Give Online



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

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of her father, David Penning

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion. Thank you to our Children's Choir this morning for sharing their musical talents with us.

Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-4

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. The children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

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.

Sunday School

10:10 - 10:50 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs while listening to the lessons of the day (the same breakfast that is being served in the Fellowship Hall). If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with breakfast.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum

Youth Center

10:10 AM

Grades 7—12

You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

April 13: Fellowship

April 20: Easter Fellowship

First Communion Classes

Sundays, April 13

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

Students that have shown an interest in receiving Communion are welcome to join. Around 2nd grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email her at Kristin@kmlchurch.org to sign your child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17.

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, April 13

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

The Women by Kristin Hannah

Join us!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 13 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)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

12:15 PM Book Group

12:15 PM First Communion Class

April 14 Monday

Monday in Holy Week

10:00 AM Pantry

12:15 PM Worship

7:30 PM Youth Committee

April 15 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week

Good News Deadline

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

April 16 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week

12:15 PM Worship

April 17 Thursday

Maundy Thursday

First Communion

No Clinic

11:00 AM Lenten Meal

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Meal

6:30 PM Worship

April 18 Friday

Good Friday

No Pantry

12:00 - 3:00 PM Ecumenical Worship

6:30 PM Worship

April 19 Saturday

Easter Vigil

No 5:00 PM Worship

10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship

April 20 Sunday

Easter

7:30 AM Sunrise Easter Worship

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 Easter Breakfast

April 21 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM Pantry

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

New Member Classes

April 27 & May 4

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 18. Questions or planning to attend? Contact the church office (info@kmlchurch.org) or 402-341-7761. We look forward to connecting with you!

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, May 4

9:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be

served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation no later than April 27. The photos may be brought to church or emailed to info@kmlchurch.org. Please be sure to have your names on the photos. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day for the graduates.

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 4

If you are a graduate in this past year, please let us know by Tuesday, April 15. We need to know your name, who your parents are, where you are graduating from, major if applicable, and what will be next for you. On May 4 we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

info@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be listed in the May Good News and in the Sunday Bulletin on May 4.

KMLC Camp Week Camp Carol Joy Holling June 15-20

Join your Kountze friends at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Spend the week making new friends, spending time in nature, and growing in faith through song, lessons, and testimonies. If you didn't register by the Early Bird registration date, you will need to pay the additional cost and Kountze Memorial will cover the rest of the registration for any Kountze Memorial child/youth. Kountze Camp Week is June 15—20, 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. 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 info@kmlchurch.org and we will submit the Early Bird payment on behalf of your youth.



If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the link below and follow the directions above:

<http://NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register>

Youth Mission Trip

Kountze Memorial will join other high school youth and leaders from around the Nebraska Synod this summer on mission in Nashville. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship and other activities throughout the city.

- Date: July 6-12, 2025
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost of event: \$680/person

To help with fundraising for this trip, there are envelopes in the Fellowship Hall. We ask you to support our youth by taking an envelope and putting a donation inside matching the number on the envelope before returning it. Checks/envelopes should be made out to Kountze Memorial and clearly marked "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Many, many thanks!

Lutheran Collaborative VBS (All free!)

Held at Luther Memorial Church
1031 Sunset Trail (61st St. & Western Ave.)
July 20-23

Preschool (potty trained) to Grade 5
5:15 PM: Family Meal
6-8 PM: Programming

This year, we are going on a "Road Trip with God". Our studies will be based off of the Bible verse Joshua 1:9 – "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Join us as we discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make

new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Register or volunteer by using the QR code or link below. If you have questions/concerns, please contact Kristin Boe (kristin@kmlchurch.org) or Pastor Becky (402-740-1985 or pastorbecky@lord-of-love.org).



<https://luthermemorial.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. **The current needs this week for the pantry are rice, pasta, and pasta sauce.** You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Also, if you get cards, calendars, pens, etc. in the mail that are taking up room in your "junk drawer," you might consider donating those items to the pantry as well. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. You are welcome to volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. We are using a new sign up format, so please use the link or QR code to sign up (even if you are a regular volunteer or signed up on the old form) and join our mission.



<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>



Menu for Maundy Thursday (Free-will offering)

Lunch:

Chicken Noodle Casserole
Green Beans
Roll
Strawberry Shortcake

Dinner:

Assorted Soups
Pulled Pork
Dessert provided by the Valquier family in honor of the First Communion of Nicholas

Everyone is welcome. Join us!

Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 3—Wednesday, April 9

Saturday: 28

Sunday: 9:00: 166 11:00: 62

Wednesday: 12:15: 37 6:30: 54

Total: 347

Streaming: 10

Pantry Guests Served: 695 (inc. 186 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$30,956.11 (Regular) \$3,236.4 (Specials)
\$1,293.33 (Debt Reduction)

The amazing depth of God's love!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes
Monday	Luke 22:14-23:56	The Last Supper and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes the disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1-19:42	The suffering and death of Jesus
Saturday	Psalm 31:9-16	A prayer for protection
Sunday	Luke 24:1-12	The resurrection of Jesus



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." **Luke 23:34a (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of mercy, thank you for entering our experience of weakness and sin and for sending us out into the world with courage and grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a sign of your steadfast love that protects us through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Is it easy or hard for you to forgive someone? Explain.
- If you were alive during Jesus' time, what would you have asked him?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 23:1-49.

The crucifixion of Jesus tells us a lot about ourselves and about our God who defeats human frailty with forgiveness and new beginnings. The crowds praise Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and then within a week say, "*Crucify, crucify him*" (v. 21). Peter promises to be faithful to Jesus but at a crucial moment denies him three times. The people give false witness about Jesus to make him look bad in front of Pilate. The leaders, the crowd, and the soldiers mock Jesus, but their words bear the truth of who he really is. Two criminals are killed along with Jesus. One ridicules Jesus while the other seeks his tender care. Through Jesus, God is willing to enter our world and participate in vulnerability, injustices, betrayal, suffering, and death. It shows the way of Jesus' cross as the way of true peace, true life, and true hope. It is the very example of God's amazing love.

Discuss: Who do you most identify with in the story of Jesus' crucifixion?

Pray: **Merciful God, through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you endure our lies, our fears, and our sin; we praise you for enduring it all from the cross to bring salvation to us. 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 help someone who is suffering?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). The conclusion to the Lord's Prayer is an added doxology, an expression of praise to God, not found in Luke 11. This Palm Sunday we shout Hosanna as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Take time to reflect on the words of the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer: *For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.* Add these words to verses 2a, 2b, 3, 4a and 4b from the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth weeks in Lent by writing them around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what these words mean to you. *Pray:* The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: