

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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March 29, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 AM

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY**





## PRELUDE

*Suite in C Major*

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

**Matthew 21:1-11**

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

℣ The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

℣ The Gospel of our Lord

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## BLESSING OF THE PALMS

℣ The Lord be with you.

☩ **And also with you.**

℣ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

℣ 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.

☩ **Amen.**

## PROCESSION WITH PALMS

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

☩ **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

*Let the Rocks Cry Out*

Lloyd Larson

Kountze Adult & Children's Choir

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## PREFACE

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

## WORD

(sit)

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

**Matthew 26:14—27:66**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to pages 462-481*

*Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.*

## The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew

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

### I. The betrayal of Judas

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

*Pause for Silent Reflection*

### II. The last supper

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

1&2: Surely not I, Lord?

3: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

1: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

2: Surely not I, Rabbi?

3: You have said so.

4: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

3: Take, eat; this is my body.

1: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

3: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

**HYMN**

*Eat This Bread*

**ELW 472 (sung 3 times)**

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst."**

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### **III. The Mount of Olives**

1: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

2: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

1: Peter said to him,

3: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

2: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

3: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

4: And so said all the disciples.

*Pause for Silent Reflection*

### **IV. Gethsemane**

1: Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

2: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

3: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

- 2: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.  
 1: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,  
 2: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.  
 3: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,  
 2: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.  
 1: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,  
 2: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.  
 3: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,  
 2: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.  
 1: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,  
 4: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.  
 3: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

**ALL: Greetings, Rabbi!**

- 3: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,  
 2: Friend, do what you are here to do.  
 3: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.  
 1: Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,  
 2: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?  
 3: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,  
 2: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.  
 1: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

**HYMN**

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

**ELW 347 vs. 1 & 2**

**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.

**2** Follow to the judgment hall,  
 view the Lord of life arraigned;  
 oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
 Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
 Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
 learn from him to bear the cross.

## V. Trial before Caiaphas

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

**ALL: He deserves death!**

- 1: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,  
1&2: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

*Pause for Silent Reflection*

## VI. Peter's denial; Judas's death

- 1: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came and said to him,
- 2: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.
- 1: But he denied it before all of them, saying,
- 3: I do not know what you are talking about.
- 4: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,
- 2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.
- 4: Again he denied it with an oath,
- 3: I do not know the man!
- 1: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,
- 1&2: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.
- 1: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,
- 3: I do not know the man!
- 1: At that moment the cock crowed.
- 4: Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.
- 1: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.
- 4: They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.
- 1: When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back

- the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,
- 3: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.
- 2: What is that to us? See to it yourself.
- 1: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.
- 4: But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,
- 2: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.
- 4: After conferring together, they used the money to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners.
- 1: For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

## **HYMN**

*God, When Human Bonds Are Broken*

**ELW 603 vs. 1 & 3**

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

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

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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## **VII. Jesus before Pilate**

- 1: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,
- 2: Are you the King of the Jews?
- 3: You say so.
- 4: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,
- 2: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?
- 1: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.
- 4: Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,
- 2: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?
- 1: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him saying, "Have nothing to do with this innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."
- 4: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,
- 2: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

**ALL: Barabbas!**

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

**ALL: Let him be crucified!**

2: Why, what evil has he done?

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

1: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

2: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

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

4: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

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

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**HYMN**

*Were You There*

**ELW 353 vs. 1 & 2**

**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?**

**2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

Text: African American spiritual

### **VIII. Golgotha**

1: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

2: And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

1: Over his head they put the charge against him which read,

1&2: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

1: Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

3: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the

Son of God, come down from the cross.

- 2: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,
- 4: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.
- 2: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

*Pause for Silent Reflection*

### **IX. Jesus' death**

- 1: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
- 2: And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,
- 3: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?
- 2: that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- 1: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,
- 4: This man is calling for Elijah.
- 2: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,
- 4: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.
- 1: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*Long Pause for Silent Reflection*

- 1: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.
- 2: Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,
- 4: Truly this man was God's Son!
- 2: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

*(sit)*

**HYMN**

*Were You There*

**ELW 353 vs. 5**

- 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

## X. Burial

- 1: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.
- 2: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,
- 3: Sir, we remember what that imposter said while he was still alive, “After three days I will rise again.” Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, “He has been raised from the dead” and the last deception would be worse than the first.
- 1: Pilate said to them,
- 4: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.
- 2: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

*Pause for Silent Reflection*

4: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(rise in body or spirit)*

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

☒ With the whole church, let us 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:    **L**   God, in your mercy,  
                  **C**   receive our prayer.

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

**Prayers this week:** Jay Jacobson (son of Joan Jacobson-Trotter), Marie Kubat

**On-going Care:** John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Irving Collett, Warren Cooke, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Marvel Green, Janice Hansen, Kevin Hertz, Larry & Michele Hunzeker, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Phil Meyer, Sharon Miley, Ralph Morse, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White, Michael Yount

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Mallory Hoogestraat, daughter of JD & Julie Hoogestraat, Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken & Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert & Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees & Takao Elliott, daughter & son-in-law of Eric & Toby Rees; Joel 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; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

**L**   The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C**   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

*Above All with When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Arnold B Sherman  
Tim Strang, *cellist*  
Kountze Adult Choir

1 We place upon your table, Lord,  
 where you by grace have bid us dine,  
 these tokens of our daily work,  
 the food of life, the bread and wine.

2 Within these simple things there lie  
 the height and depth of human life:  
 our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils,  
 our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.

3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you;  
 we take them humbly from your hand;  
 put these your gifts to higher use:  
 the holy meal that you command.

Text: M. F. C. Willson, 1884-1944, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ O God, maker of heaven and earth,
- ☑ your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

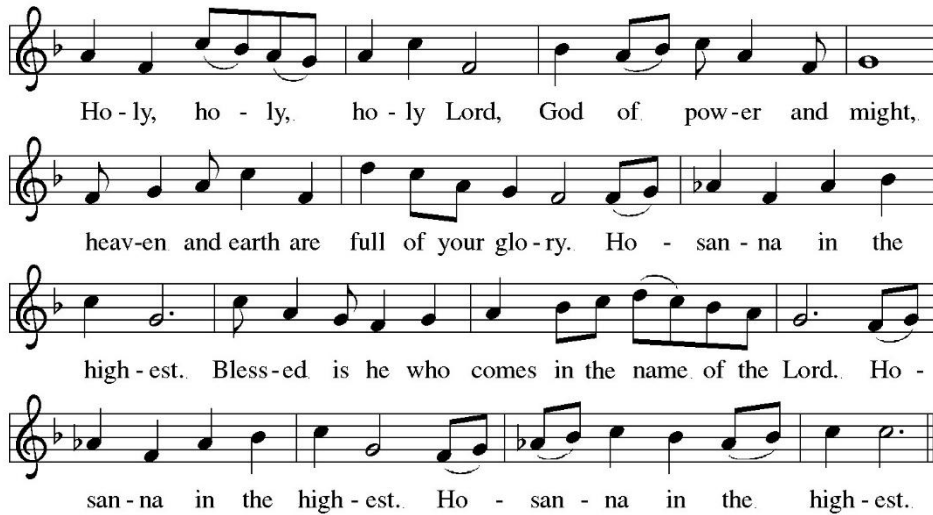
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

- ☐ 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-er 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. 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

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

☑ **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



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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- Come to the table.
- We feast on God's goodness and mercy.

(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. If you cannot or choose not to receive the wine, know that the sacrament and God's promised forgiveness are complete in either element.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Sarabande from Suite in C Major*

J S Bach  
Tim Strang, cello

- 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.

*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.**

*Refrain*

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

- 2 **Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain***
- 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: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**COMMUNION BLESING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- ☞ God of our salvation,  
☞ we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

LBW 94 vs. 1, 3, 4



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
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.  
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  
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?  
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

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
☑ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Sarabande from Suite in D Minor*

J S Bach  
Tim Strang, cello



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

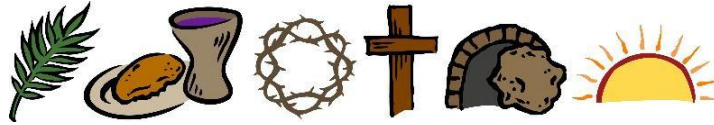
*Passion readers:*

David Ramirez  
Anna Rennard

Amy Pignatore  
Nick Pignatore

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# HOLY WEEK



## **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 30 & 31, April 1**

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2**

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 3**

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 4**

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

## **Easter Sunday, April 5**

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



## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz	Deacon
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Jim Smejkal	Facility & Events Director
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons
Sheila Valquier	Youth Director
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Dan Collett	Facility Assistant
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

March 28 & 29, 2026

*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.*

## Today at Kountze Memorial

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

### Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

#### Grades K-6

We thank our Children's Choir for sharing their musical talents with us this morning. No Children's Choir today or on Easter Sunday. Beginning again on April 12, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All 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, fellowship, and conversation. All are welcome—bring your appetite! 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 AM

#### Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

No Sunday School today or on Easter Sunday, but beginning again on April 12, children are invited to join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Sunday school rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, storytelling, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. 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 the breakfast.

### Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:15 AM

#### Youth Center

Grades 7-12

No Youth Forum this Palm Sunday or Easter, but youth are invited to join us again each week beginning April 12 in the during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

### 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 or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it 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 plates 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, *continued*

### Adult Forum

#### Sundays, 10:10 AM

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

March 29: Fellowship (Palm Sunday)

April 5: Fellowship (Easter Sunday Breakfast)

### Palm Sunday Path

#### Sunday, March 29, 3-5 PM

First United Methodist Church, Omaha  
7020 Cass St (72<sup>nd</sup> & Cass St.)

This Palm Sunday, Christians and all people of goodwill are invited to gather as a witness to Jesus' message of solidarity with our struggling neighbors. As Christians we stand for loving our neighbors: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger. We stand for truth and dignity, and the worth of every child of God. This ecumenical event will include brief prayers from Bishop Scott Johnson (NE



Palm Sunday Path

Synod, ELCA) and Bishop Scott Barker (Episcopal Diocese), and short remarks on food insecurity, healthcare access and immigration reform from pastors of the Omaha community. There will be music and lots of time to connect with fellow Christians and community partners! Register using the QR code or at [bit.ly/PalmSundayOmaha](https://bit.ly/PalmSundayOmaha) (registration ahead of time is not required, but helpful). If you are able, bring a palm branch to wave from Sunday morning worship (if that is your tradition), a sign, and a donation of cereal for the Clair Cares Food Pantry.

### We Need Sunday School Teachers!

Please use the link below or the QR Code to sign up to help lead the youngest members for Kountze in their Faith Formation. All the lessons are provided beforehand, scripted, and materials provided. Contact Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) for any questions you may have.

<https://tinyurl.com/8s4k6ax4>



SS Teachers

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### March 29 Sunday

Passion/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

No Sunday School, Children's Choir,  
or Adult Forum—Fellowship

3:00 PM Palm Sunday Path

### March 30 Monday

Monday in Holy Week

10:00 AM Pantry

12:15 PM Worship

### March 31 Tuesday

Tuesday in Holy Week

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:15 PM Worship

### April 1 Wednesday

Wednesday in Holy Week

12:15 PM Worship

### April 2 Thursday

Maundy Thursday

First Communion

11:00 AM Lenten Meal

12:15 PM Worship

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

5:00 PM Lenten Meal

6:30 PM Worship

### April 3 Friday

Good Friday

12:00 - 3:00 PM Ecumenical Worship

5:00 PM Pantry

6:30 PM Worship

### April 4 Saturday

Easter Vigil

Homebound Communion

No 5 PM Worship

10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship

### April 5 Sunday

Easter

Homebound Communion

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 Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

### April 6 Monday

Office Closed

10:00 AM Pantry

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Be a Part of our Holy Week & Easter Worship Services as an Usher, Communion Assistant, or Lector

We invite those who serve as Ushers, Communion Assistants, and Lectors to assist with our Holy Week and Easter services. If you're able to serve, Ushers can sign up in the back of the Nave or at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall; Communion Assistants and Lectors can sign up on SignUp Genius or contact the church office. We appreciate your help.

### No Parking

If you are attending the midday services during Holy Week, please remember not to park in the Methodist Clinic parking lot. This lot is for staff and patients of the Methodist Clinic only. You can park in the west parking lot or at the metered spots on Farnam Street. Vehicles with a valid accessible license plate or

placard may park at any meter for free. Everyone else must pay for parking with a credit card by using either the Park Omaha or ParkMobile app or at the multi-space meter which accepts coins or card payment. If you have questions, check the link below for more information:

<https://www.parkomaha.com/parking/on-street-parking>

### Camp Carol Joy Holling Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 11

A View West Shores

110 S. 243<sup>rd</sup> Street, Waterloo, NE

5:30 - 10 PM

Save the date for Camp Carol Joy Hollings gala. The night promises fun, auction bidding wars (both live & silent), fellowship with friends, and great food. Bring a friend or two or a



CJH Gala

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

table's worth. The more the merrier. This year the gala features a fun theme & new ticket option. Do you have items to donate for the auction? You can fill out the Auction Donation Form by using the QR Code or email Allison at [Ablatchford@NLOM.org](mailto:Ablatchford@NLOM.org). More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to <https://www.nlom.org/gala/>

### New Member Classes

**April 12 & 19**

**10:15 AM**

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us for our upcoming new member classes and learn more about becoming part of our church family. Both sessions are important, so please plan to attend each one. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, April 26. If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org). We're excited to get to know you! In the meantime, you're invited to worship with us and join in any activities that interest you.

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are bottled water, cereal, & toothpaste. 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. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission. We are always in need of gently used egg cartons and grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uau5dddp>

If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.

### Cinco de Mayo

**Saturday, May 2**

**6-8 PM**

Come celebrate with an evening full of music, flavor, and fun! Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a festive Celebration the whole family can enjoy. Sample a delicious spread of authentic Mexican food and homemade desserts, sip on refreshing mock margaritas, and experience the lively sounds of Omaha's own Mariachi band, Mariachi Los Caballeros, performing live! Throughout the evening, try your luck with our raffle baskets as well. Whether you come for the food, the music, or the community, there will be something for everyone.

Ticket Prices at the door:

Adults (14+): \$25

Kids: \$10

Ages 5 & under: Free

Bring your friends, bring your family, and come celebrate together with great food, great music, and great company! Proceeds to benefit youth attending the Pittsburgh trip this summer!

### Holy Week & Easter at Kountze Memorial



**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 30, 31, & April 1**

**12:15 PM** Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

**Maundy Thursday, April 2**

**11 AM** Lunch (free-will offering)

**12:15 PM** Worship

**5 PM** Dinner (free-will offering)

**6:30 PM** Worship & First Communion

**Good Friday, April 3**

**12-3 PM** Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir (Come and go as your schedule allows.)

**6:30 PM** Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows) (Nursery)

**Holy Saturday, April 4**

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

**Easter Sunday, April 5**

**7:30 AM** Festival of the Resurrection in the Link

**8 - 10:45 AM** Easter Breakfast

**9 & 11:00 AM** Festival of the Resurrection

**10:10 AMish** Easter Egg Hunt in the Link after the 9 AM service



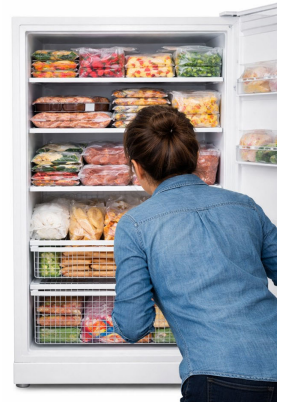
### MAUNDY THURSDAY MENU FOR APRIL 2

What's for lunch/dinner?

It all depends on what's in the freezer. A little of this and a little of that. Maybe chili, chicken noodle or broccoli cheese soup... Whatever it is, it will be good. Again!

Come hungry and join us.

Worship: 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM  
Cost: Free-will Offering



### Attendance & Giving Thursday, March 19—Wednesday, March 25

**Saturday:** 24

**Sunday: 9:00:** 148 **11:00:** 80

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 38 **6:30:** 52

**Total:** 342

**Streaming:** 66 (inc. Wednesday)

**Pantry Guests Served:** 120 (inc. 489 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 13

**Offering:**

\$14,982.16 (Regular) \$4,525.65 (Specials)

\$297.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Matthew 26:14–27:66	Jesus' trial and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	The servant's humiliation
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	Jesus suffers and dies
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for protection
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Christ's resurrection



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In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[B]ut [Jesus Christ] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:7-8 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, free us to trust that the humiliation Jesus experienced from the cross is the path to hope for the world and the source of real power, faith, and love. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of each day and for this food. May we enjoy the day with courage, faith, and love. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

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

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What do you do to show someone that you care for them?
- How is Jesus' death on a cross a sign of God's love for you?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 26:14–27:66.

Many theories have been put forward in the history of the church to state why Jesus had to die to be our Savior. However, one point is clear in the Bible: Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love, a love that is willing to experience a form of slavery, humiliation, and excruciating death, "*even death on a cross*" (Philippians 2:8). Crosses have become forms of jewelry and part of other art forms that point to Jesus' death. However, neither jewelry nor other art forms fully express the pain and humiliation that God in Christ endured to indicate the character of who God is for us. Jesus joins our human existence by making our deepest prayer his prayer: "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" (Matthew 27:46). God in Christ Jesus joins our life experience and from the cross stretches out his arms to say, "I love you this much."

*Discuss:* When you see someone wearing a cross, what does it mean to you?

*Pray:* **Loving God, you stop at nothing to show us your divine character and the depth of your love. Help us to know and to trust the power of your love for us through Christ. 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 care for someone who has been unfairly treated?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If you received palms during worship, take them home. As we begin Holy Week, say the **ACTS** prayer of giving praise to God (Adoration), asking God's forgiveness (Confession), giving thanks to God (Thanksgiving), and asking God's help for those in need (Supplication) as you light all six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross. After lighting the candles, hold a palm and wave it in your hand as you say, "**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**" (Matthew 21:9b)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66