KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
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November 15, 2026 **9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

TWENTYFIFTH SUNDAY after PENECOST



Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*rise in body or spirit*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity ✢ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Holy God,

C **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation**
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

L Inherit the riches of God's grace.
✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.

C **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Christ, Be Our Light* **ELW 715 vs. 1, 3-5**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
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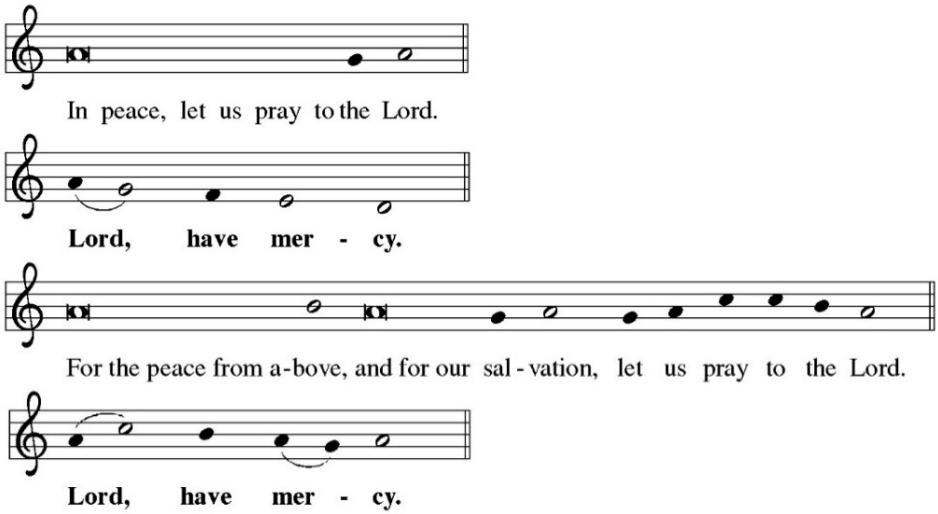
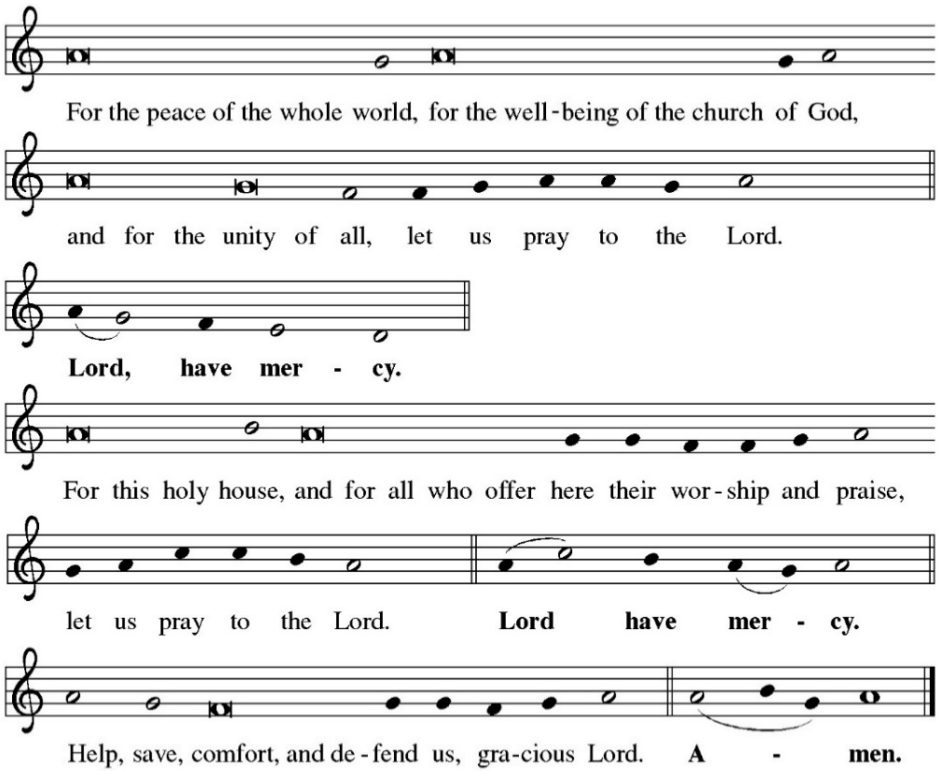
APOSTOLIC GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

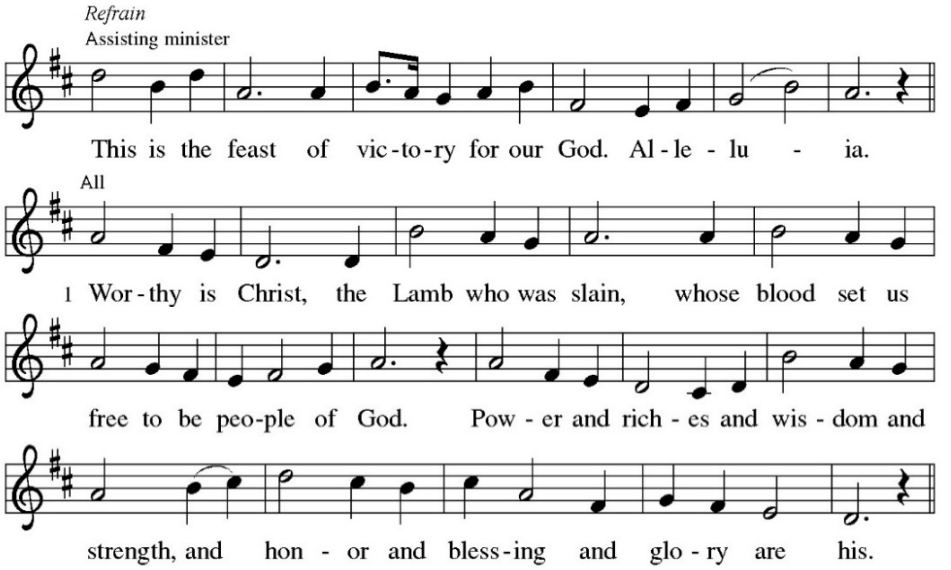
C **And also with you.**

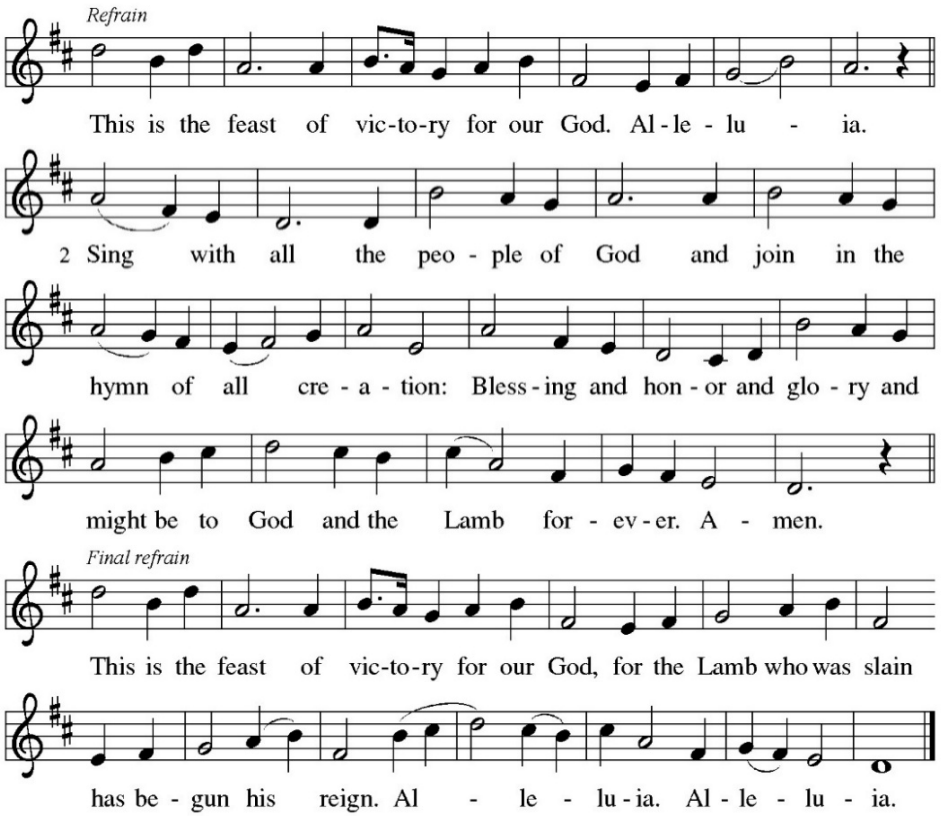
KYRIE





THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Righteous God,

C **you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(*sit*)

FIRST READING **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

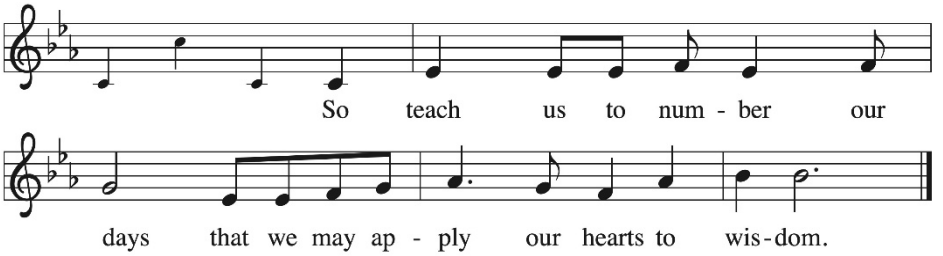
Zephaniah (*like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading*) *presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. [12] At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." [13] Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. [14] The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries

aloud there. [15] That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, [16] a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. [17] I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. [18] Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L Word of God, Word of Life. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 90:1-8, 12 *(choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)*



[1] Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
[2] Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.
[3] You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
[4] For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night; *Refrain*

[5] you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
[6] in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
[7] For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
[8] Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
[12] So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. *Refrain*

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

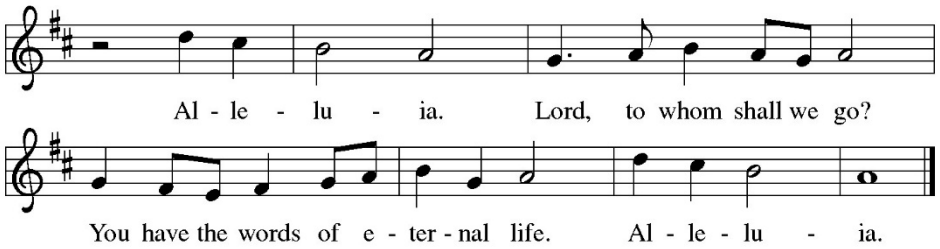
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything
written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in
the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them,
as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters,
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children
of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
[8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a
helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through
our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
[11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L Word of God, Word of Life. **C Thanks be to God.**

(*rise in body or spirit*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 25:14-30**

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 316

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Jesus said to the disciples: [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off
and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents
made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the
ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled
accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more
talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two
talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more

talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

L The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

(*sit*)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 2 years through 4th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags, located in the back of the entrance hall, during the regular sermon or go to the Upper rooms for a story time. All children will return to their families in time to receive communion. Once the service is over, please place the used activity bags in the baskets provided, so they can be sanitized and replenished for next week.

SERMON *Deacon Haitz*

(*rise in body or spirit*)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As Saints of Old* **ELW 695**

1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought
of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today firstfruits would bring,
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

2 A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;
all life in Christ made new.

3 In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt.

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

L Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: L God, in your mercy,
C **hear 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 Tracey Gehringer-Steffen

On-going Care: Rev. Jeffrey Alvestad, Darlene Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Nakoma Baker, Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Ellie Carlson, Warren Cooke, Jinette Cswercko, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob & Sandy Fonda, Shirley Haitz, Judith Hamaker, Linda Hoagland, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Kate McCoy, Judy McIntire, Lynn Meyer, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, Noelle Phelps, John Rayno, Allyson White

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; Brayden Renken, son of Lenny & Aundrea Renken; Joel Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenberg 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

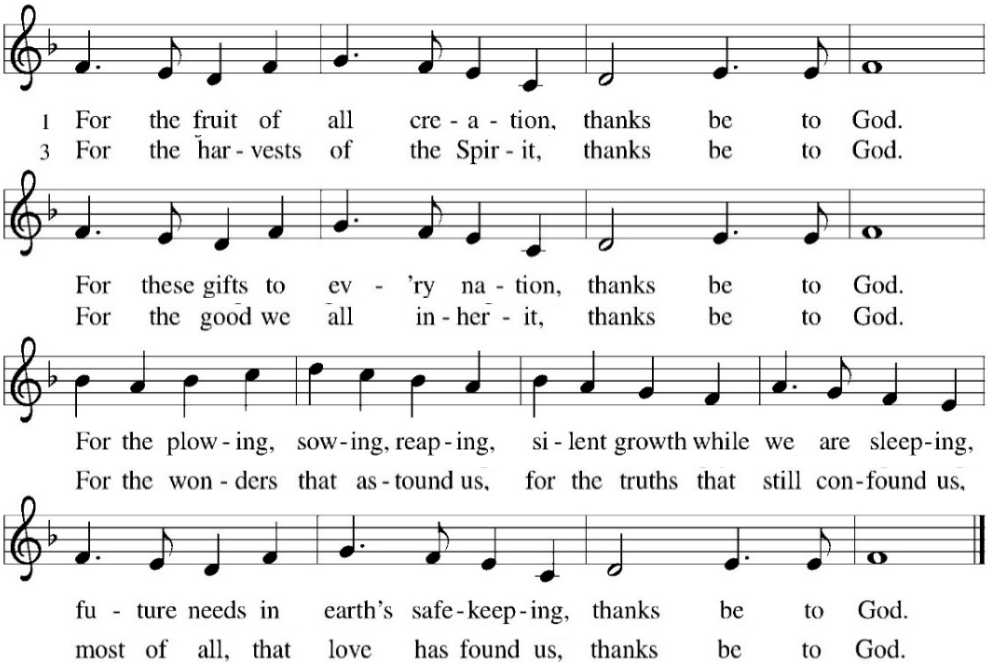
We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your 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 *How Shall I Sing to God?* words by Brian Wren
music by Lloyd Larson

(*rise in body or spirit*)

OFFERTORY HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* **ELW 679 vs. 1 & 3**



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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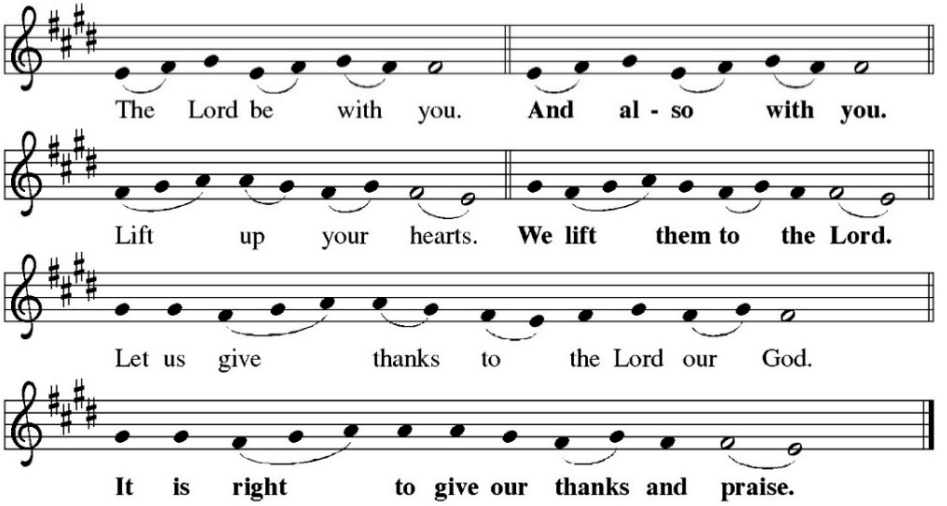
OFFERING PRAYER

L Eternal God,

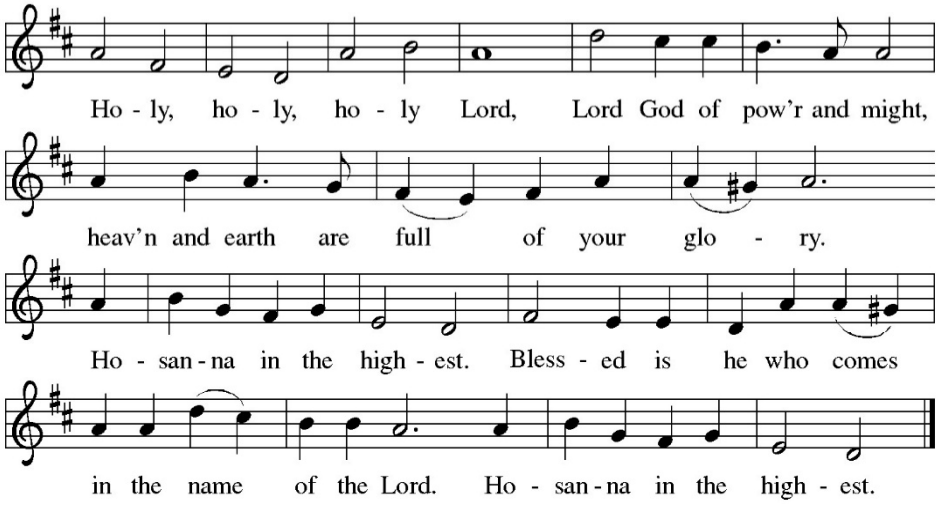
C **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until all the hungry world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVNG



PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



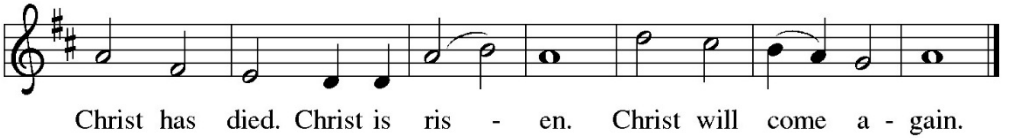
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

L You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. …
… and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

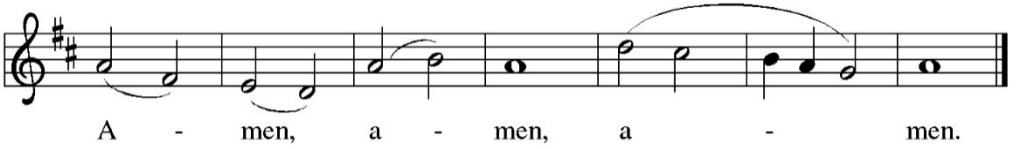
In the night in which he was betrayed, …
… Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, …
… Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



L Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, …
… be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

L Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

C **In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.**

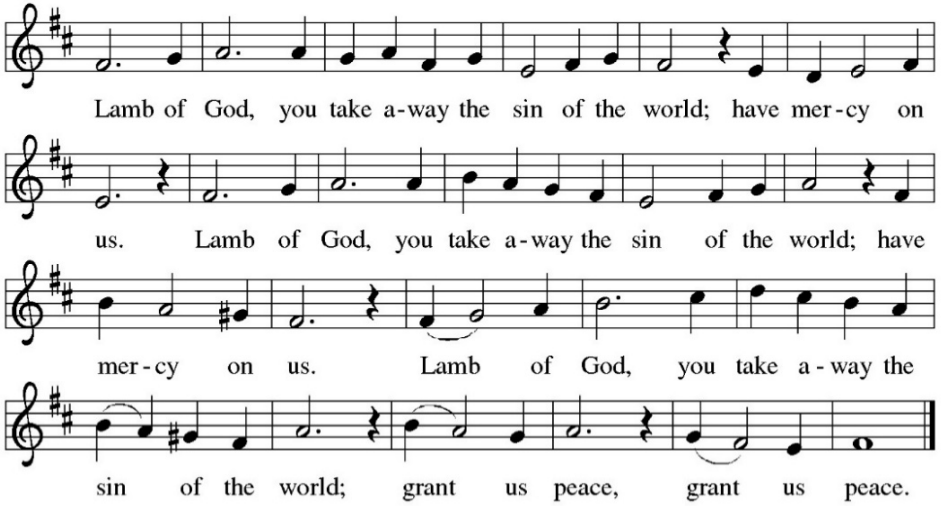
(*sit*)

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.*

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God



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1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
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O Christ the Same **ELW 760**

1 O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

2 O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving pow'r,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
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(*rise in body or spirit*)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Holy God,

C **in this meal we have received your never-ending mercy. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

L The holy Trinity, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* **ELW 632**

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

DISMISSAL

L Go out in joy. Encourage one another.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE ✢ ✢ ✢ Mark Jones, *organ*

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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	Exec. Dir. 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
Heidi Pospisil	Pantry Director
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director

KOUNTZE Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street **Omaha, NE 68131**
402-341-7761 **www.kmlchurch.org**

November 14 & 15, 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

Altar Flowers last weekend, November 7 & 8, were given to the glory of God by Mark & Tarna Kidder in celebration of Jane Kidder's 21st birthday and in celebration of Hunter Heidgerken's birthday. Altar flowers this weekend are given by Mark & Tarna Kidder in celebration of Jason Grant's 27th birthday.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Glenn Anderson in celebration of Sharon Anderson's 90th birthday.

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.

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon
9:15 AM
Grades K-6
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.

Sunday School
10:10 AM
Ages 2 years-6th Grade
Join us in the 2nd 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

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/pastorlucy/45min

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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.

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.
November 15: Stewardship & Budget Update
November 22: Advent Fair

Youth Friendsgiving Dinner
Sunday November 15
5 - 8 PM
Get ready for a night of food, friends, and fast-paced fun at our upcoming Youth Progressive Dinner! This isn't your average sit-down meal—we will be traveling to different host homes for each course of the night, delicious appetizers, a filling main course, and wrapping things up with an epic dessert. Make sure to bring your appetite, and your energy, because you won't want to miss a single stop on this unforgettable night! RSVP to Sheila (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to join.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 15 Sunday
- Pentecost 25
- Good News Deadline
- 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
- 5:00 PM Youth - Friendsgiving

November 16 Monday
- 10:00 AM Pantry
- 3:00 PM Finance Committee
- 6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

November 17 Tuesday
- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 12:00 PM KCCOC Board
- 12:30 PM Circle 3 (note date change)
- 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
- 6:00 PM Congregation Council

November 18 Wednesday
- 12:15 PM Worship
- 5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy
- 6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

November 19 Thursday
- 11:30 AM Men's Lunch
- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
- 6:00 PM Circle 5

November 20 Friday
- 5:00 PM Pantry

November 21 Saturday
- 2:00 PM Tracey Gehringer-Steffen Funeral
- 5:00 PM Worship

November 22 Sunday
- Advent Fair
- Advent Alternative Gifts Market
- Christ the King
- 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
- 12:00 PM Decorate for Advent
- 12:15 PM Young Adults Thanksgiving
- 6:00 PM Interfaith Service - Countryside Community Church

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 19
11:30 AM
Guys, do you have a winning chili recipe—or just love a good bowl of chili and great fellowship? Join us for our 7th Annual Men's Chili Cookoff! Sign up at the Welcome Desk, call the church office, or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, November 17 and let us know if you're coming and if you'll be entering a pot of chili or attending as a taster.
Cost:
Chili entrants: Free
Tasters: Suggested donation is a new stuffed animal or toy to be given as Christmas gifts to children served by the Kountze Food Pantry. Cornbread and dessert will be provided. Come sample the entries, vote for your favorites, and enjoy a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and friendly competition! Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis. Will Deacon's Delight be the winner two years in a row?

Advent Fair
Sunday, November 22
The Advent Fair will be held a week early this year. By having it on November 22nd, we are hoping that it will be better attended than on Thanksgiving weekend when families might be travelling. Be sure to join in on the fun!

Advent Alternative Gifts Market
Sundays, November 22 thru December 13
9:30 - 11:30 AM
Saturday, December 12, 6 PM
Give gifts that make a difference! Support communities around the world through ELCA Good Gifts, or make monetary gifts to our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry and the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic. Shop beautiful, handcrafted fair-trade gifts from Global Mamas artisans in Ghana, including batik home goods, bags, and recycled-glass ornaments. Share the joy of giving while supporting neighbors near and far!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Decorate for Advent
Sunday, November 22
12 PM
You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Young Adults Thanksgiving (20's & 30's)
Sunday, November 22
12:15 - 1:30 PM
Join us for a special Thanksgiving gathering! We'll share a potluck lunch, enjoy some favorite board games, and spend time connecting and celebrating our growing community. Bring a dish to share and come ready for good food, fun, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 22
Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha
6 - 7 PM
Youth Service Project
5-6 PM
Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude, reflection, and community as congregations from across Omaha's diverse faith traditions come together for our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Following the service, all are invited to enjoy a dessert reception, a sweet opportunity to connect and continue the conversation with neighbors old and new. David McGinness, Youth Director at Countryside, would like to invite all youth, 6-12th grades, to participate in a Pizza & Service night before the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service. The youth will be making Walker Bags for Together Omaha. Walker Bags are 1-gallon ziploc bags full of essentials such as water, granola bars, snacks, hand warmers, and soap that Together's Street Outreach team takes out every day to visit our unhoused neighbors. Please RSVP to Sheila Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to let her know if you - and maybe a friend - will be attending.

National Youth Gathering
Registration is Open
Youth Participants and Adult Leaders!
Youth entering 9th grade through those graduating in spring 2027, as well as young adults, are eligible to participate! The 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering is on the horizon, and now is the time to start planning! If you've ever been, you know what a formational experience the gathering is! This incredible opportunity brings young people together from across the ELCA for faith, fellowship, worship, service, and an unforgettable experience of being part of a larger church community. Contact Sheila Valquier — sheila@kmlchurch.org or Deacon Eric Haitz — eric@kmlchurch.org for more information. Share this info. with families and young people who might be interested in joining us for this amazing experience.

Mosaic International
A few weeks ago Rev. David deFreese spoke at a Sunday Forum about the connection Mosaic has with the the work being done in and around Moshi, Tanzania to support individuals and their families affected by physical and cognitive disabilities. After that, Bryan Coffey spoke about how to become involved with this amazing work. There are opportunities for you to help spread the word about this program, but also to visit Tanzania and see the miracles occurring there for yourself. Getting involved is a life-changing experience and touches thousands of lives. If you would like to learn more about Mosaic International, check the fact sheet link below:

Mosaic Int'l.

https://tinyurl.com/44myuv36
or contact Carol Stoltenberg through the church office.

Kountze Food Pantry
Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are peanut butter, soup, cereal. We are always in need of gently used grocery bags. 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 as it fits your schedule. We especially need help on Monday mornings. There are two shifts available: 9:30–11 AM & 11 AM–1 PM. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission.

Pantry

https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp
We're also looking for someone who enjoys working with a computer or iPad to help register guests. Whether you can give an hour and a half, two hours, or help with guest registration, your time makes a difference for our neighbors.

Attendance & Giving
Thursday, November 5—Wednesday, November 11

Saturday: 28
Sunday: **9:00**: 161 **11:00**: 74
Wednesday: 12:15: 14
Total: 277
Streaming: 53
Pantry Guests Served: 733 (inc. 257 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19
Offering:
$23,794.17 (Regular) $1,090.27 (Specials)
$493.00 (Debt Reduction)

The importance of encouraging one another.

taking faith home

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	Romans 1:8-15	Prayer of thanksgiving
Thursday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalm 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you for the body of Christ that helps us when life is difficult and our faith is weak. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you who make the earth fruitful, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our bodies and encourages our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with faith, love, and hope. (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

How does encouragement from others help you?

Why do you think Christians need support and encouragement from one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Good times and hard times can happen—and change—rather quickly. Daily life is fragile. Life experiences can change dramatically with a phone call. What is constant is the need to care for one another and build up the community of faith. There are important connections between this reading and the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. God has gifted us to use our vocation, our calling in life as a child of God, to do God's work in the world. If we do not do this and ignore or hide our calling, the work of God in the world suffers. Instead, we are to trust in a God who acts; we are not to fall prey to complacency or speak and live as though God is not present and active in our lives and in history (Zephaniah 1:12). Paul reminds the people that they—and we—are to reach out to others, especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. We are to do so with encouragement to live each day in faith, love, and hope because of the God who acts and has given us *"salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

Discuss: How are you encouraged by others to live your faith and how do you encourage others?

Pray: **God of grace, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses that walks alongside us to strengthen us in faith, love, and hope through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who would benefit from an encouraging word while going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A *talent* in Jesus' day was money. Jesus tells a story about three servants (Matthew 25:14-30). One hid his money and never used it. In our day, we think of a talent as a natural ability to be good at something and God given. If we are good at something, we should not hide our talent but use it to the best of our ability. Think or talk about what talent(s) you have.

Pray: **Dear God, help me to use my talents, whether big or small, so that others may know of your love. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46