

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

February 11, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD THE FIRST SUNDAY after FOOTBALL



If you had been there, what would you have seen...really? Our readings this day challenge our understanding of reality and invite us to let the Holy Spirit guide our imaginations.

The Epiphany Season emphasizes that the baby born in Bethlehem is the Light, shining into the darkness of the whole world. We conclude this season with a story that may invite speculation about the physics of light, yet cannot really be explained. The earliest Christ-followers were confident this event was giving them an accurate picture of God's glory. They also knew a lot of details remained unknown. And, they came to realize Mount Calvary – the place of crucifixion – was more than a speed bump on the way to heaven. The Cross is God's power to recreate God's real world.

Questions: What Oscar winning movie derives its title from our First Lesson? Why were the main characters famous?

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way
to follow our own ways.

Forgive us for the times

we have spoken or acted too quickly;

we have not spoken or acted at all;

we have hurt those closest to us;

we have hurt those we have yet to know;

we have thought more about ourselves than others;

we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,

so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ✠ Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"

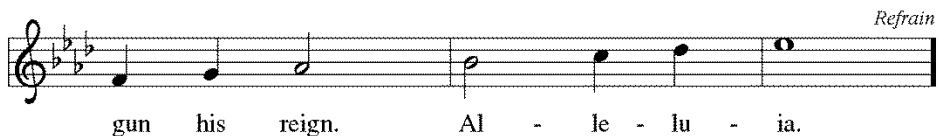
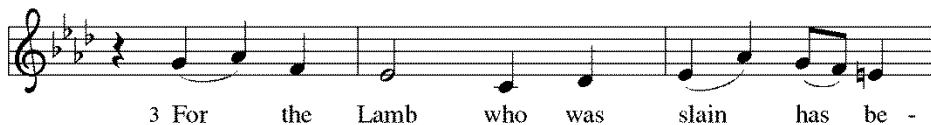
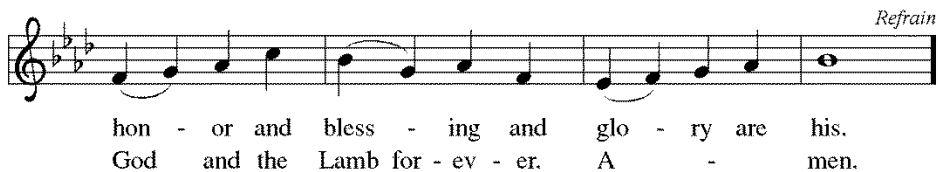
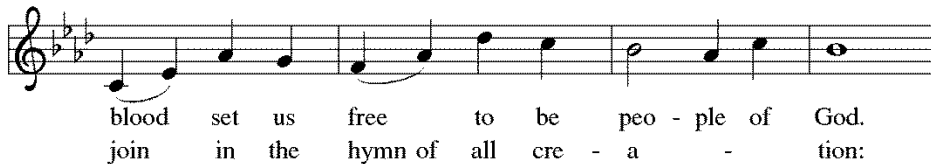
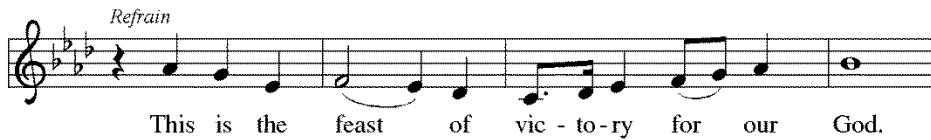
ELW 657

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Almighty God,

☞ the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts.

Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(sit)

WORD

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1–12

God promised Abraham that through his descendants, all people will be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3). The Old Testament tells how the “chosen people” lived out – and failed to live out – this purpose. In spite of their often faithlessness, God remained faithful. Today’s story comes at a low point. The kings were personally and politically corrupt. So God sent prophets to speak words of condemnation and hope. Elijah is one of the key characters in the Old Testament. This story of the transfer of mission leads us to our Gospel.

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, “*Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.*” But Elisha said, “*As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.*” So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “*Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?*” And he said, “*Yes, I know; keep silent.*”

⁴Elijah said to him, “*Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.*” But he said, “*As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.*” So they came to Jericho.

⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “*Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?*” And he answered, “*Yes, I know; be silent.*”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “*Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.*” But he said, “*As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.*” So the two of them went on.

⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “*Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.*” Elisha said, “*Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.*” ¹⁰He responded, “*You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.*” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “*Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!*” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

The Church in the cosmopolitan, commercial city of Corinth included persons from many very different backgrounds, religious beliefs, economic classes. In this section, the Apostle Paul has to challenge the false claim that if one is truly of the true religion, one's life will be happy and perfect. This is similar to what we, in our culture, call the gospel of health and wealth. Do we have a false vision of God's glory? How does the Cross correct our vision?

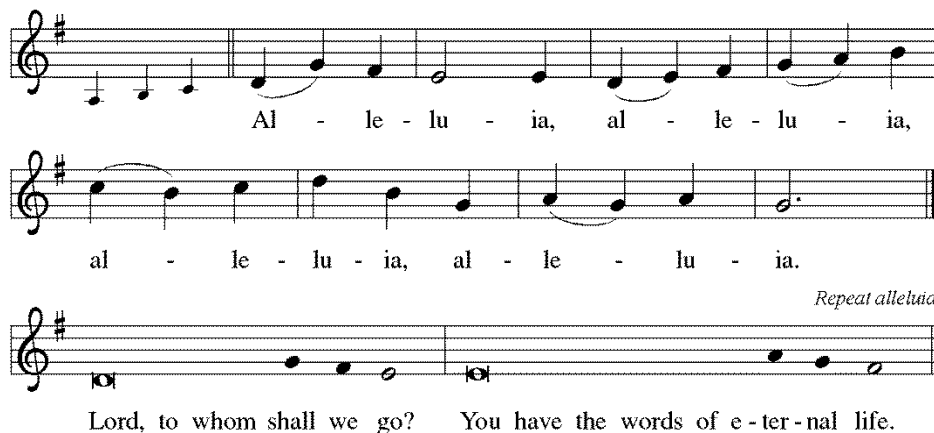
And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “*Let light shine out of darkness,*” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOspel ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:2–9

In the previous section, Jesus had asked his disciples, Who do you say that I am? Six days suggests Moses' period of preparation before encountering God on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 24:16). In the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah are two key figures who foreshadow the Messiah (Deuteronomy 18:15; Malachi 4:5-6). We find background for this story in the Psalms as well: Help is found on the high mountain (121:1); God is clothed in a garment of light (104:2).

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with

Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “*Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.*” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “*This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!*” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P The Gospel of our Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

ELW 820

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: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 G hear our prayer.

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

Illness: Lois Carlsen, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Teri Heil, Lavern Larkowski, Susan Muchmore, Gary Rodene, Ed White, Darlene Wilson

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

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 use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Shine Like the Sun”


Arr. Karen Black

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Merciful God,
- ☑ receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...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. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** We who are many are one body,
☩ for we all partake of the one bread. We come to be filled with light and life.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“This Little Light of Mine”
“Blest Are They”

ELW 677
ELW 728

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** O Morning Star, fair and bright,
☩ you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

P We are an Easter people.

C And Alleluia is our song.

P Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Alleluia! Alleluia!

P The author of Ecclesiastes writes: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.

C A time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.

P A time to break down and a time to build up.

C A time to weep and a time to laugh.

P A time to mourn and a time to dance.

C A time to keep silence and a time to speak.

P As a sign of our repentance, we now say Farewell to the Alleluia until our rejoicing at the resurrection of our Lord. How good it is for us to be here.

C Amen! Alleluia!



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace and do not be afraid. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia!

G Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Director of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Handbell Director/Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Susie Henry
	Liz Pemberton
	Steve Jacobson
Lector	Mattie O'Kane
Ushers	Dick Nelson
	Donna Crouse
	Ralph Diggins
	Brad Madison
	Rodney Nord
	Dan Troxel
	Sharon West
	Dean Winther
	Bob Johnson
Greeters	Colleen Lenners
	Carole Meilahn
	Lois Sorensen
Crucifer	Bailey Gittler
Acolytes	Madelyn Hinrichs
	Kaitlyn Munqua

SUNDAY, 11:00 PM

Comm. Asst.	Lowell Harms
	June Anderson
Lector	Bruce Nissen
Ushers	Norm Sack
	Ken Johnson
	Linda Johnson
	Lee Johnson
	Monica Albers
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
	Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Abby Rigas
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 10 & 11, 2018

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 nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us on Sundays for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger. If you're able to help set up, prep/cook, and/or clean up after breakfast on Sunday mornings, please talk to Jim, or let the church office know. We would appreciate your help! Thanks.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** *Lent Preview of Services and Synodical Theme*
NEXT WEEK: *TBA*

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Joyce Hahn, by husband, Wayne; in honor of our 5 granddaughters by Lynn and Nancy Meyer. Flowers last week were given by Barb Donelson in honor of her retirement.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday on the 2nd floor for children 2 years—8th grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR The new JOYFUL SOUNDS Children's Choir has begun. This choir will be for grades K through 5th grade. Preschool (and grades K-5 that are not in choir) will continue with Kristin Boe for the Children's Sermon Lesson.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHOIR rehearsal in the Adult Choir room each Sunday from 11—11:40 AM. Come and sing!

February 11 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-5)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

12:00 PM Book Group

8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

February 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 14 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

Valentine's Day

9:00 AM Sewing Group

11:15 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Worship

**February 15 Thursday**

Good News Deadline

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

7:00 PM Circle 5

February 17 Saturday

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group

5:00 PM Worship

February 18 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Children's Choir (gr K-5)

10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

10:30 AM Executive Committee

11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

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.

Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet 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 is available from 9 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.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to help us beautify the altar by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held April 15 & 22 from 12—2 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.



ORDINATION SERVICE, This Sunday, February 11, 3:00 PM – Enjoy the Celebration We are honored to host here at Kountze the Service of Ordination for John Gok Badeng on behalf of his congregation, Nile Lutheran Church. We will enjoy this time of praise and prayer in the sounds of their South Sudanese heritage. And during the time of fellowship, we can enjoy food of their traditions. We need a few folks to help with hospitality, to serve as ushers and to help in the kitchen. If you are willing to help, please speak with Pastor Moessner.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, February 15, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial – Cost \$10. Dr. Steven Hinrichs will present on his work as Professor and Chair in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at UNMC and the Director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory, and Director of the University of Nebraska Center for Biosecurity. In his position as laboratory director he has been responsible for the development of a statewide program for the rapid identification of biological agents of mass destruction. Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 13, to the church office or Pastor Paul (402-341-7761 or paul@kmlchurch.org).

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Sunday, February 18, 10:00-11:00 AM in the Fellowship Lounge. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.

KMLC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarship are funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up after the first of the year in the Church Office, or downloaded at www.kmlchurch.org. Applications are due March 1. Applications received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable, and recipients must re-apply each year.

BAPTISM SEMINAR Noon, Sunday, March 11. Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptismal liturgy. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS Sunday, March 18, 12:00 PM. Communion is open to all baptized Christians. Those children who are already communing or those children interested in receiving Holy Communion are invited to a First Communion class. We will begin with lunch in the conference room followed by instruction in the Nave with Pastor Hall. Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 PM. A good guide for determining when your children are ready to receive Communion is when they begin to ask about receiving it during the liturgy. Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

THANK YOU I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and pastoral visits during my recent illness. It was much appreciated. —Marvin Andersen

WHERE DO ALL THE FLOWERS GO? The leadership for our Altar Flower Delivery ministry has transitioned frequently over the past year due to a variety of reasons. The current structure is allowing the ministry to “limp along” but is not conducive to a flourishing ministry. We would like to hold a collective conversation to discuss its



ASH WEDNESDAY worship (Wednesday, February 14) will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness. Worship with

us at 12:15 & 7:00 PM. Lunch/Dinner at 11:15 AM and 6 PM. Cost of the meal – Free-will offering.

Lent at Kountze

Theme: Being Lutheran Together

February 21 - Faith Alone

February 28 - Grace Alone

March 7 - Scripture Alone

March 14 - To the Glory of God Alone

March 21 - The Gospel-Evangelical Alone

Lunch – 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM; Dinner – 6 -7 PM

Cost – Free-will Offering

Worship – 12:15 PM and 7 PM



future—are there volunteers interested in helping to lead?—might the ministry take a new shape? To discuss these questions and more, please join Amanda Zasada (Administrative Assistant and current Altar Flower Delivery Coordinator) and Pastor Paul Moessner in the fellowship lounge on Sunday, February 25 at 10:10 AM. All past and current flower delivery volunteers are welcome, as well as those interested in possible future participation.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday Attendance: 53

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 167 11:00: 105

Midweek – Noon: 7 **Evening:** 17

Total: 349

Pantry Guests Served: 217

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 34

Offering: Not available at time of printing

Listen to Jesus, God's beloved Son.

Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	The transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	2 Kings 2:1-12	Elijah is taken into heaven
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Proclaiming Jesus as Lord
Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-21	The practice of faith
Thursday	Proverbs 8:32-35	Listen to God
Friday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Return to the Lord your God
Saturday	Psalm 50:1-6	God shines brightly
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus



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Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
Mark 9:7 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, Son of God, open our ears and our hearts so that we listen to you. Amen. (Mark 9:7)

Mealttime Prayer:

For every cup and every plateful, to you, O God, we are grateful. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who makes light shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is the tallest hill or mountain you have climbed? What did you see from the top?
- In Mark 9 Jesus led Peter, James, and John up a mountain where they witnessed Jesus' clothes becoming dazzling white and saw him speaking with Elijah and Moses. Why do you think Jesus wanted them to experience that?
- Where and when have you or someone you know had a special experience of God's presence? How has that helped you or them listen to and follow God?

Read: Mark 9:2-9.

The season of Epiphany ends with the moment of glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John see Jesus in shining splendor alongside Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophets), reflecting the faith of the Old Testament. The disciples will descend the mountain and make their journey to Jerusalem and the cross of Christ. Reflect on how seeing Jesus in glory and listening to him is a vision that will encourage us as we journey to the cross this Lent. (Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14). Finish this sentence: "I listen to Jesus by . . ." Close by praying the following:

Pray: Dear God, we thank you for giving us a glimpse of heavenly glory as we continue our journey of faith on earth. Guide us into Lent and on to Easter as we listen to you and learn of the work of Christ that brings salvation to all that you have created. Amen.

Lent focuses on the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as discussed in Matthew 6:1-21. Make this week "Secret Service Week" in your home or with friends. Put your names in a bowl and have each person draw out someone else's name. During the week, perform a secret act of service for that person. Share your ideas about secret acts of service that could be carried out for one another.

The church season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. There are 40 days in the season of Lent, a time to refocus our lives on God. One important spiritual practice that Christians emphasize during Lent is prayer. Make this Lent a time of prayer for others. Use separate pieces of paper, and on each one write the name of a person you can pray for during Lent. Place these papers into a prayer box. Each day in Lent, pull out a slip of paper from the prayer box and ask God to care for and bless the person named. Throughout the season of Lent, feel free to add other names and place them on slips of paper in the prayer box.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15