

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

March 18, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



*God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.*

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Merciful God,

**C** forgive us.

**Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.**

**We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

**We were silent when we should have said something.**

**We acted when we knew better.**

**We were still when we know we should have moved.**

**For the wrong we have done,**

**for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** People of God, look to ✠ Jesus Christ, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much, because God loved you so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

**C** Amen.

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”

ELW 327

### 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.

## KYRIE

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord .



**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



**P** Help, save comfort and defend us gracious Lord.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God,

**C** with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we will live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

**T**he days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “*Know the Lord*,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

[A] The word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 51:1-12 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 5:5-10**

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “*You are my Son, today I have begotten you*”; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, “*You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek*.” <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*(stand)*

## LENTEN VERSE

*“Thy Word”*

**Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path**

**Verse 1: When I feel afraid And I think I've lost my way  
Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end**

**Verse 2: I will not forget Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end**

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**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**John 12:20-33**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

**N**ow among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “*Sir, we wish to see Jesus.*” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*” <sup>24</sup>*Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* <sup>25</sup>*Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.* <sup>26</sup>*Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.* <sup>27</sup>*“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.*” <sup>28</sup>*Father, glorify your name.*” Then a voice came from heaven, “*I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.*” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “*An angel has spoken to him.*” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “*This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.*” <sup>31</sup>*Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.* <sup>32</sup>*And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Roynesdal

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

**ELW 351**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

**G** 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.

**HOLY BAPTISM** (11:00 AM)

Winston Jack Hadfield

(see page 227)

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    **P** Lord, 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)*

**Thanksgiving:** For the baptism of Winston Jack Hadfield, son of Brian & Ann

**Illness:** Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Lavern Larkowski, Susan Muchmore, Alice Pickinpaugh, Gary Rodene, Ed White

**Sympathy:** To the family and friends of Dennis Hultgren, father of Ruth Henneman

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, 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; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

**P** 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 use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.*



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Answer to the Call”*

Mary McDonald

(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 sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we will know the joy of the resurrection; through 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 ...  
...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

- ☩ Return to God with all your heart.  
☩ Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

*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 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 you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

(sit)

## AGNUS DEI

“O Christ, Lamb of God”

ELW 196

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

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“As We Gather at Your Table”

ELW 522

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Compassionate God,
- ☑ you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

- P** May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace.
- G** Amen.

### HYMN

*"Restore in Us, O God"*

**ELW 328**

### DISMISSAL

- P** Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
- G** Thanks be to God.

### 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

#### SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Ellen Pessavento
Ushers	Duane Hovendick Penny Hovendick

#### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Susann Henry Jeff Perkins Lorie Groenjes
Lector	Don Darst
Ushers	Glenn Anderson Dan Collett Ted Kaasch Mark Mahaffey Gary Westerman Bob Woodworth Marcy Madison
Greeters	Sharon Anderson Bev Troxel Karen Wolf
Crucifer	Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes	Kenyon Martis Cameron Miller

#### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs June Anderson
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Adam Klinker Linda Hoagland Julie O'Doherty
Greeters	Julie King Rosemary Tessin
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Grace Penrod Rachel Stouffer



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

**March 17 & 18, 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:** *Congregational Meeting\** (see next page). **NEXT WEEK:** *Lenten Presentation from KMLC Team*

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** This 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 attend. We will begin with lunch in the conference room followed by instruction in the Nave with Pastor Hall.

**ETERNAL CANDLE** is given to the glory of God by Marie Barrett in honor of Alan Barrett's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

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

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Grades K—5<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet at 9 AM in the Joyful Sounds Studio. Preschool (and grades K—5<sup>th</sup> 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!

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**To Consider the Following Resolution**

**This Sunday, March 18, 10:10 AM**

BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Constitution of Kountze Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church (the "Constitution"), the amendments to the Constitution as proposed by the Church Council and presented to the congregation for consideration at this meeting (the "Amended and Restated Constitution") be, and they hereby are, approved; that the Amended and Restated Constitution be brought before the congregation for ratification at the next regular meeting of the congregation; and that upon ratification the Amended and Restated Constitution shall become effective within 120 days from the date of receipt of notice of the amendments by the ELCA Nebraska Synod as required by Chapter 18 of the Constitution.

**March 18 Sunday**

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
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 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 (note: 11 -1:30)  
12:00 PM First Communion Class  
12:15 PM Family & Friends Planning Meeting  
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**March 19 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry  
5:00 PM Scholarship Committee  
6:00 PM Clinic Board

**March 20 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Church Council

**March 21 Wednesday**

10:30 AM Bible Study - Cross Purposes

11:15 AM Lenten Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:45 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Lenten Dinner  
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 PM Worship

**March 22 Thursday**

1:30 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**March 24 Saturday**

9:30 AM Prayer Retreat  
5:00 PM Worship

**March 25 Sunday**

Palm Sunday  
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
7:50 or 10:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal  
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 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 Stephen Ministry  
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 (no flowers during Lent). 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.

**BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT – CROSS PURPOSES** Wednesdays in March, 10:30 AM. Led by Pastor Paul. How do various images found in the Bible help us experience God’s work on and through the Cross? This week: A Battlefield; Next week: A Court of Law and a Prison.

**LENTEN PRAYER RETREAT** Saturday, March 24, 9:30 AM to noon. ...teach us to pray. Like the disciples asked of Jesus, we wonder if our prayer life might become stronger. In the centuries since then, faithful followers have learned disciplines that may help us grow in the practice of prayer. Pastor Paul will help review some of these practical ways that prayer can deepen our relationship with our Lord.

**ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING AND APPRECIATION LUNCHEON** Commissioning will be held at the 11:00 AM Worship Service on April 15 with a luncheon to follow at 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for the luncheon. The OSJ Sponsors are hosting an appreciation luncheon for all current OSJ members, alums, and parents. Acolytes will take part in a special commissioning during the 11:00 AM worship service. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 PM for an appreciation luncheon and present the 2018 Outstanding Acolyte Award. A group photo will also be taken. Please plan to attend this event as we honor all those who serve in this very meaningful ministry. Make your reservations by calling or texting Jeff and Robin Perkins at 402-917-2461 by Sunday, April 8.

### LENT at KOUNTZE

**Theme: Being Lutheran Together**

**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 (child care at 7 PM)**



### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance: 83**

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 191 11:00: 110**

**Midweek - Noon: 54 Evening: 60**

**Total: 498**

**Pantry Guests Served: 340**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 29**

**Offering:**

\$11,239.65 (Regular) \$10,200.00 (Specials)

\$457.00 (In the City for Good)

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER at KOUNTZE

#### Palm Sunday, March 24 & 25

9 & 11 AM Eucharist with Palm Procession and Passion Reading

#### Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 26, 27, & 28

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

#### Maundy Thursday, March 29

11:15 AM Lunch (free-will offering)

12:15 PM Worship

5:45 – 6:45 PM Dinner in Fellowship Hall (free-will offering)

6:45 PM Hymn Sing in Sanctuary (2/25 – 3/25)

7:00 PM Worship (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, March 30

12-3 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir

7 PM Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows)

#### Holy Saturday, March 31

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

#### Easter, April 1

7 – 11 AM Continental Breakfast

7:30, 9 & 11 AM Festival of the Resurrection

10:00 AM Fun Easter Activities

## How do we see Jesus?

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

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The grain of wheat that dies
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant from God
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:5-10	Jesus as high priest
Wednesday	John 20:24-29	Thomas sees and believes
Thursday	1 Kings 19:11-18	Elijah meets God
Friday	1 Corinthians 5:14-21	Christ died for all
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-12	A prayer for cleansing
Sunday	Mark 15:1-39	The passion of Jesus



[Some Greeks] came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” **John 12:21 (NRSV)**

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Jesus, help us to see you in your suffering and death that we may glorify you in your cross and empty tomb. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

You feed the hungry with grains of wheat. Thank you Lord, for this food to eat. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord your God grant you the joy of your salvation and sustain you with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:12)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Think of a specific friend or family member. How would you describe that person to someone else?
- As in the days of Jesus, we still long to see Jesus. How do you see Jesus in the world today?
- Jesus said that now was the time for the Son of Man to be glorified. In John, Jesus’ glorification happens in his death and resurrection. Why do you think Jesus answered this way when someone asked to see him?

*Read:* John 12:20-33.

Some Greeks, that is people from another culture than that of the disciples, want to see Jesus. Philip and Andrew bring the request to Jesus. Jesus responds by saying the hour has now come and only the buried grain that dies in the earth will bring lots of fruit. He continues to point out that to serve Jesus is to follow Jesus. To see Jesus is to follow the way of the cross, the way of death and resurrection, the way of self-sacrifice for a greater gain (v. 25). Jesus connects seeing him with his way of the cross (death and new life) and with his disciples living a similar pattern of life. Reflect on how being a follower of Jesus helps others to see him. How do others see Jesus through the hurts and disappointments of life?

*Pray:* **Dear Jesus, help us to see you in your suffering and death that we may glorify you in your cross and empty tomb. Amen.**

In Psalm 51:12, the psalmist prays, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.” In the Bible a willing spirit includes the desire for justice and mercy, the kind that cares for the widow and orphan, that is, those who do not have the resources to take care of basic human needs for survival. As part of your Lenten discipline, make a financial contribution to an organization that cares for those in need or serve in an organization that offers care to others.

People often buy flowers to place in the sanctuary during Easter worship as a sign of new life that has come through the death and resurrection of Jesus. After Easter worship, gift the flowers to someone with a special note that includes a traditional Easter response: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47