

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
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2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 27, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

### TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD



*Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.  
**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** Most merciful God,  
**C** we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.  
We have turned our faces away from your glory  
when it did not appear as we expected.  
We have rejected your word  
when it made us confront ourselves.  
We have failed to show hospitality  
to those you called us to welcome.  
Accept our repentance for the things we have done  
and the things we have left undone.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe  
in the glory of your Son born among us,  
and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

- P** Rejoice in this good news: In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.  
**C** Amen.

**1** Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.

**2** Arise, your light has come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.

**3** Arise, your light has come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.

**4** Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

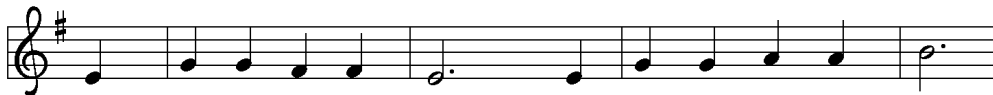
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Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

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## 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## GLORIA



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Holy God,
- C** mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Exodus 34:29-35**

*Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.*

**M**oses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 99 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD, great in Zion,  
is high above all peoples.**

<sup>3</sup>Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;  
God is the Holy One.

<sup>4</sup>**O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down before God's footstool;  
God is the Holy One.

<sup>6</sup>**Moses and Aaron among your priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O LORD,  
they called upon you, and you answered them,**

<sup>7</sup>you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

<sup>8</sup>**O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

<sup>9</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill;  
**for the LORD our God is the Holy One.**

## SECOND READING

## 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

*In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup>but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 9:28-43a**

*The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

**N**ow about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "*Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah*"—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "*This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!*" <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "*Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child.* <sup>39</sup>*Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him.* <sup>40</sup>*I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.*" <sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, "*You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.*" <sup>42</sup>While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43a</sup>And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

**P** The Gospel of the 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 Griffith*

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”*

ELW 697

*Refrain*

**Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee,  
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**2 Through this world of toil and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.**

*Refrain*

**1 I am weak but thou art strong:  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.**

*Refrain*

**3 When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.**

*Refrain*

Text: North American traditional

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**☐ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.**

**☑ I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Response:**    **P**    God of grace,  
                  **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 Mary Ellen Hilkemann; to the family and friends of Doug Revord, brother of Paul Revord; to the family and friends of Dudley Syré

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Janis Dagerman, sister of Richard Bock, Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Bud Gogetap, Vernon Hilkemann, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

## WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

**P**    The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C**    And also with you.

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

*Please support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. 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. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“How Beautiful”*

arr. Peggy Bettcher  
Kountze Bells

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN



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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God,
- ☒ Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

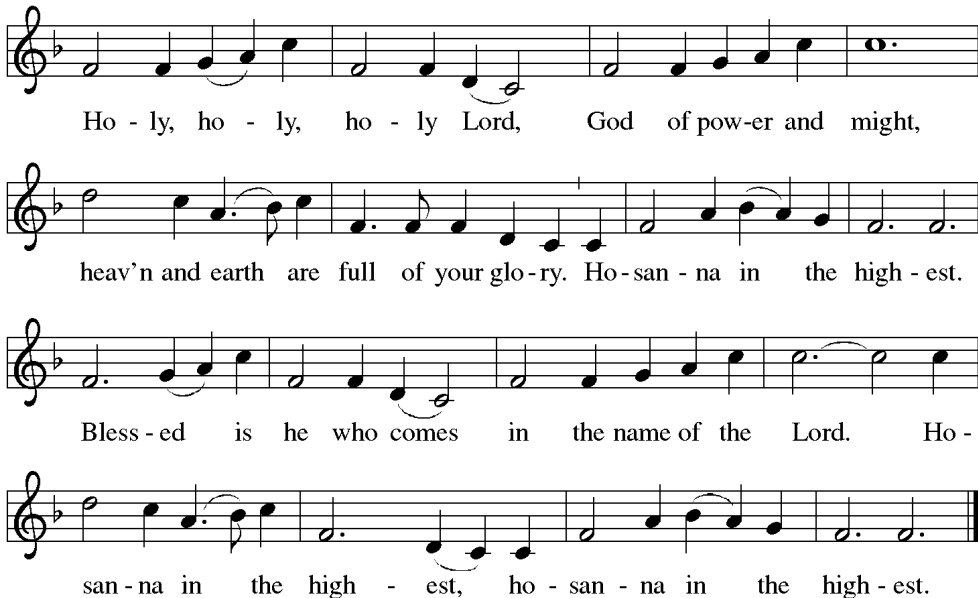
## HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

...be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** 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

**P** Come to God's table. There is a place for you

**C** and enough for all.

## AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

(sit)

## 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 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.*

*Refrain*

**Bread of life from heaven,  
your blood and body given,  
we eat this bread and drink this cup  
until you come again.**

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;  
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.  
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;  
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound.**

*Refrain*

- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away;  
set your hearts on the food that endures.  
Come, learn the true and the living way,  
that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain***

- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you,  
gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the one who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more.**

*Refrain*

- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you;  
make your home in the lifegiving Word.  
Know only Christ, Holy One of God,  
and believe in the truth you have heard.**

*Refrain*

- 5 Drink of this cup and declare his death;  
eat this bread and believe Easter morn;  
trust his return and, with ev'ry breath,  
praise the one in whom you are reborn.**

*Refrain*

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

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## “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

- 1 All who hunger gather gladly;  
holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

- 3 All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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**1 How good, Lord, to be here!  
Your glory fills the night;  
your face and garments, like the sun,  
shine with unborrowed light.**

**2 How good, Lord, to be here!  
your beauty to behold  
where Moses and Elijah stand,  
your messengers of old.**

**3 Fulfiller of the past  
and hope of things to be,  
we hail your body glorified  
and our redemption see.**

**4 Before we taste of death,  
we see your kingdom come;  
we long to hold the vision bright  
and make this hill our home.**

**5 How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
but since you bid us leave the mount,  
come with us to the plain.**

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

*(stand)*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**☞ We give you thanks, gracious God,**

**☞ for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”*

**ELW 843**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness<br/>with a liberating light;<br/>praise the One who frees the pris'ners,<br/>turning blindness into sight.<br/>Praise the One who preached the gospel,<br/>healing ev'ry dread disease,<br/>calming storms and feeding thousands<br/>with the very bread of peace.</b></p> | <p><b>2 Praise the One who blessed the children<br/>with a strong yet gentle word;<br/>praise the One who drove out demons<br/>with a piercing, two-edged sword.<br/>Praise the One who brings cool water<br/>to the desert's burning sand;<br/>from this well comes living water<br/>quenching thirst in ev'ry land.</b></p> |
| <p><b>3 Praise the one true love incarnate:<br/>Christ, who suffered in our place;<br/>Jesus died and rose for many<br/>that we may know God by grace.<br/>Let us sing for joy and gladness,<br/>seeing what our God has done.<br/>Praise the one redeeming glory;<br/>praise the One who makes us one.</b></p>           |   |

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
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## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.  
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Mark Jones, *organist*

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### KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
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Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131  
www.kmlchurch.org**

**February 26 & 27, 2022**

*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 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.*

### **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. 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 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 attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail

address to 22828.

### **Today at Kountze**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Diane Nickeson Ray in memory of her parents, Keith & Anita Nickeson

**Our COVID Task Force** met recently to review the latest information about the pandemic and how we should respond as a congregation. The good news is that case numbers are dropping, and hospitalizations and other indicators are moving in a good direction. Your pastors will continue to wear masks except when preaching or presiding at the Table. Our children and youth ministries will follow the procedures of Omaha Public Schools and so will continue to wear masks. Masks are optional for the rest of the congregation. You do not need to wear a mask but those of you wishing to do so have that option as well. The Choir will return to the choir loft, and over the next few weeks we will be placing hymnals, Bibles, and other materials in the pew racks. All this feels exciting, and seems a bit more like what we remember as "normal." We will continue to watch the situation, though, and are prepared to respond when conditions change.

### **Baptism Seminar**

**Sunday, February 27**

**10:10 AM**

Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptism liturgy with you. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761.

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

### Children's Choir

#### Ages K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Barb Carlsen is leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

### Sunday School

#### Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

### Youth Forum

#### Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

**This Sunday**—Checking in and Games

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org)) if you have questions.

### Adult Forum

#### Sunday, 10:10

**This Sunday**—Fellowship (no program)

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and cookies.

### Devotions for Lent

Available to help you through the Lenten Journey that begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. You will find them located where our yearly devotionals are located. *Grace Unbounded* is a pocket size devotion written by several pastors and is published through Augsburg Fortress/1517Media. *A Way in the Wilderness* is a weekly devotion by ELCA World Hunger and will challenge the way we reach out to people from around the world. There are limited and large print copies of this devotion. Both of these devotions follow the weekly lectionary of the church.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### February 27 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

10:10 AM Baptism Seminar

2:00 PM Mary Ellen Hilkemann Funeral (Cutler O'Neill Funeral Home in Council Bluffs)

### February 28 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### March 1 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Dudley Syré Funeral

### March 2 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:30 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### March 3 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### March 4 Friday

10:30 AM Rev. Harold Stromer Memorial Service

5:00 PM Pantry

### March 5 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

### March 6 Sunday

Lent 1

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

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## Sunday School Talking Points

Lent is the season in which we prepare for Easter. This lesson helps children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as a newborn child. Our lessons on Easter begin the week before Lent begins as we do not have

Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Today, your children will look for objects in the Sunday School rooms that represent Jesus as a newborn child. Ask your kids what they found and how they saw the baby Jesus in that object. Ask what others found. Tell them what you are reminded of when you think of Jesus being born.

### **Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update**

Great news: We have been assigned an Afghan family of 6 (soon to be 7)! Their names are: Guldin Bowari (father), Bibi Hawa (mother), Ningalai (son, 7yr 10mo), Khalil (son, 5yr 10mo), Jalil (son, 2yr 10mo), and Suraj (son, 1yr 10mo) with a newborn on the way. The task force and many volunteers have set up the two-bedroom apartment at Timber Creek (137<sup>th</sup> & Harrison). We moved in all the donated furniture and household supplies. We were able to get 2 sets of bunk beds from Creighton for the boys' room. We used the donated Hy-Vee and Visa gift cards to purchase groceries. Your generosity has made the welcome for this family complete! We were able to meet the family on Wednesday (February 23) when we transported them and their clothing from the Air BNB to the apartment. Please keep this family in your prayers.

### **Middle School Lock-in**

#### **Camp Carol Joy Holling Camp**

**March 4 at 8 PM until March 5 at 8 AM**

**Cost is \$10 with Breakfast included**

Register with the church office.

### **Lenten Meals**

#### **Beginning Ash Wednesday (March 2)**

Marlys and Jim can always use an extra set (or two or three) of hands in the kitchen to help prepare meals for lunch and/or dinner. For more info or to sign up: [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org)

### **Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, March 2**

**Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM**

**Lenten Meal: Hot Chicken Salad Casserole, roll, cottage cheese with half a peach**

**Lunch: 11:00 AM**

**Dinner: 5:30 PM**

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness.

### **March Service Project for the Youth of Kountze**

#### **Kountze Food Pantry**

**Friday, March 18**

**5:00 or 5:30 until 8:00 PM**

The youth and family service work for the month of March will be helping in the Kountze Pantry. For 20 years, the Pantry has served over 1700 guests each month. The mission of this great service is simple: feed anyone who comes through the door. Let's lend our hands to this amazing organization and help serve our community. RSVP at the church office by calling 402-341-7761.

### **First Communion**

**Sundays, March 27 & April 3**

**12:15 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. Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 PM. The course is geared toward second graders but all ages are welcome; Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org).

### **Kountze Food Pantry**

The Kountze Food Pantry has been blessed with large donation drives from Central High School, Morning Star Lutheran Church, and Methodist Health System. We are extremely grateful for our community partners including the continued support from St. Michael Lutheran Church. The very best contribution is new volunteers who come to the rescue! Please consider signing up to volunteer at the link below as there is an ongoing need.

#### **Pantry Volunteers Needed:**

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

### **Camp Carol Joy Holling**

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 – 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday: 21**

**Sunday: 9:00: 127 11:00: 52**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 9 Confirmation: 14**

**Total: 223**

**Streaming: 78**

**Cox Cable: 197**

**Pantry Guests Served: 532 (inc. 182 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18**

**Offering:**

\$23,069.06 (Regular)      \$2,044.36 (Specials)

\$8,658.00 (Debt Reduction)

*God's holiness comes near to us in Jesus.*

Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured
Monday	Exodus 34:29-35	The shining face of Moses
Tuesday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Wednesday	Psalms 51:1-17	A prayer for forgiveness
Thursday	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	God's new agreement
Friday	1 Peter 1:13-16	A call to holy living
Saturday	Psalms 99	Our Lord is king
Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus



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*Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"* **Luke 9:35 (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, help us to see in your awesome might the power to love and heal us through all you have created in the name of the Chosen One, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Holy God, we thank you for your love and power that provides us with this food today. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of power and love bless you today and always through Christ our Lord.

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

- Jesus' disciples were frightened by a cloud that surrounded them. When have you felt scared?
- Can you imagine feeling weak in the knees to be in the presence of God's glory and power? Explain.

*Read:* Luke 9:28-43a.

We modern-world types can have difficulty with the extraordinary—miraculous—events of the Bible, like the transfiguration of Jesus. It is a scene so different from our daily life experiences. There is a sense of awe and holiness in the mountain-top moment of Jesus with frightened disciples, Moses, Elijah, and a cloud out of which comes a heavenly voice. Jesus is announced as the one who is God's unique Son, the Chosen One of God. In Jesus, God's presence has come near. Holiness seems far from us, but in the Bible, God's holiness is meant to come close, even touch our daily lives. Therefore, it is no accident that after the transfiguration, Jesus immediately descends from the mountain-top experience to touch people's lives where they are, in need of healing and hope. Jesus shows compassion for a father in agony over his only child's illness. God's holiness seen in Jesus makes the extraordinary ordinary. This makes our normal, everyday lives, like those of Peter, James, and John, something quite unexpected and extraordinary.

*Discuss:* How does God make your life extraordinary?

*Pray:* **Holy and Almighty God, help us to overcome our fears of your presence so that we can be people of healing and hope through Jesus Christ, your Son, the Chosen One. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you touch another person's life with a sense of God's holiness through a prayer or a blessing?

Transfiguration Sunday is the last Sunday before Lent begins. We begin to transition to a more somber season in the church year. A common ritual is to bury or hide the "Alleluia" on this day. During Lent, the word Alleluia is not said or sung again until Easter. Write the word Alleluia on several sheets of paper and decorate them. Place them in a box or hide them different places until Easter. Before hiding the Alleluias, pray: **Dear Lord, as we bury the Alleluias, help us to prepare our hearts and minds to focus on Jesus' journey to the cross. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13