

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

April 3, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

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** Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you:

**we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

Teach us to follow in your ways,

assure us again of your love,

and help us to love our neighbor.

Amen.

- P** Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C Amen.

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. Refrain**

- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne!**
Refrain

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

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

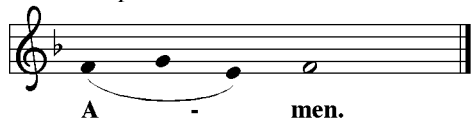
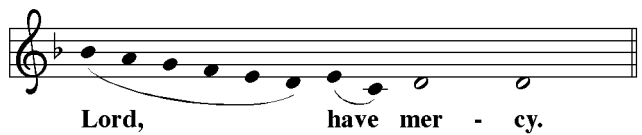
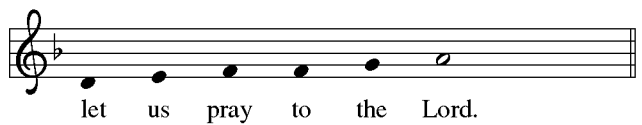
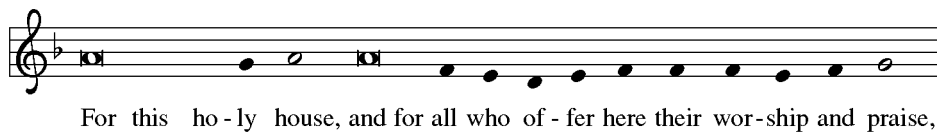
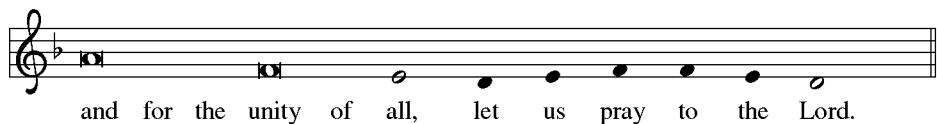
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



GLORIA



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Creator God,

C you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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

Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

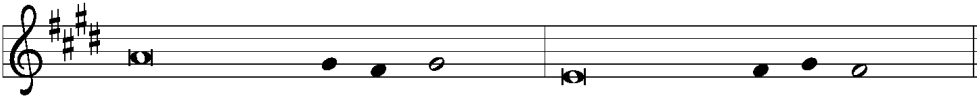
²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold print**)



¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.”

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

Paul writes: ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff has a tempo marking 'S 160b' in the upper right corner. The lyrics for the first staff are 'Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.' The second staff has a tempo marking 'S 160b' in the upper right corner. The lyrics for the second staff are 'Lord to whom | shall we go? You have the words of e - | ter-nal life.' The third staff has a tempo marking 'S 160b' in the upper right corner. The lyrics for the third staff are 'Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.'

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "*Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.*" ⁸*You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.*"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

ELW 321

- 1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.**
- 2 So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.**
- 3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,
so into life and glory shall we wake.**

Text: Thomas H. Cain, b. 1931-2003

Text © Thomas H. Cain.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

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

Illness: Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Laura McCormick, Norma Pafford, 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

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. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Wondrous Love”

arr. Mari Pooler

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on,
I’ll sing on, and when from death I’m free,
I’ll sing on, and when from death I’m free,
I’ll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I’ll sing on,
I’ll sing on, and through eternity I’ll sing on.

What wondrous love! What wondrous love!
What wondrous, wondrous love!

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Lord Jesus Think on Me"

ELW 599 vs 1, 2, & 3



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Extravagant God,
- C** you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

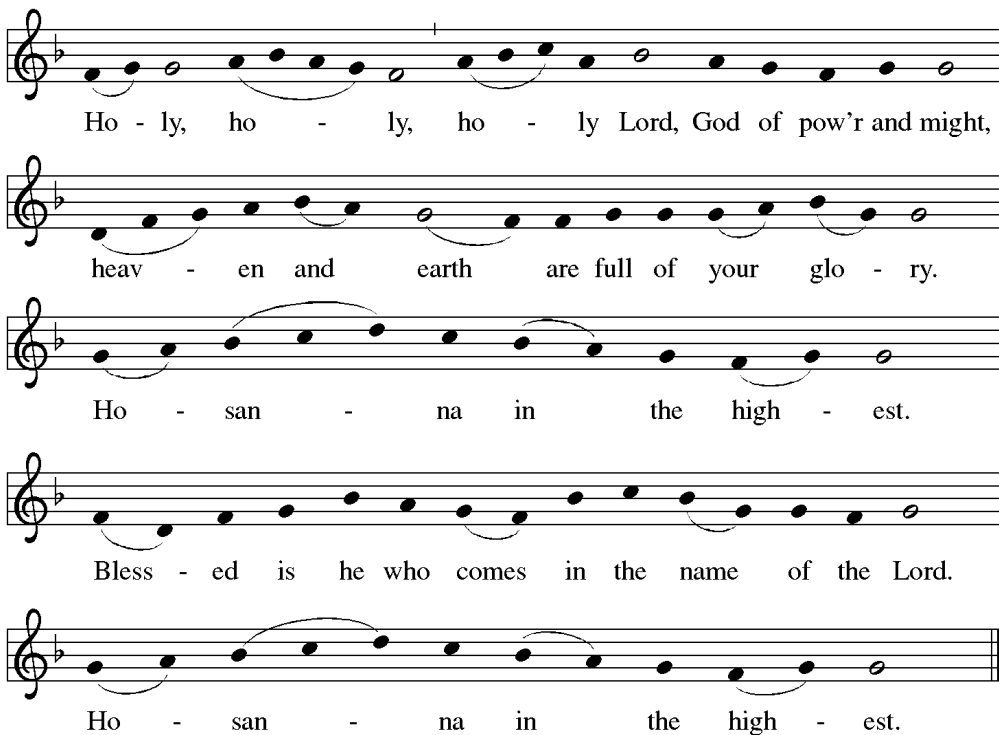
HOLY COMMUNION

- 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 LENT

- 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

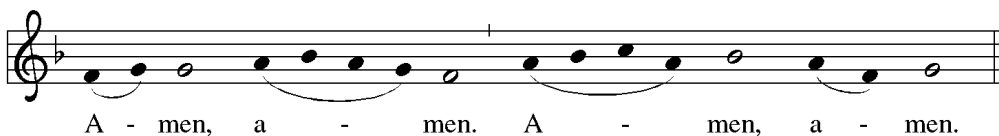
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...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, 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 Here is food and drink for the journey.

C We take and will be filled.

AGNUS DEI

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

(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 who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction, you will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine.
Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

ELW 750

**1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart;
I pray thee, ne'er from me depart;
with tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share,
yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
if thou, Lord, were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
my trust in thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought;
thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
forsake me not! I trust thy word.**

**2 Yea, Lord, thy own rich bounty gave
my body, soul, and all I have
in this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
may glorify thy lavish grace
and serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false teaching me beguile,
let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
to bear my cross and follow thee.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
in death thy comfort still afford.**

**3 Lord, let at last thine angels come,
to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
that I may die unfearing;
and in its narrow chamber keep
my body safe in peaceful sleep
until thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
that these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, thy glorious face,
my Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
and I will praise thee without end!**

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532-1608;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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**1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!**

**2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**

**3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

“When We Are Living”

ELW 639

**1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**2 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**3 Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind;
and when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942
st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946
Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish traditional

(stand)

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Blessed Jesus,
C in the rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- P** You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW 618

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.</p> | <p>2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.</p> |
| <p>3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.</p> | |

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791;
tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Mark Jones, *organist*

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
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
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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

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

April 2 & 3 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

Sharing of the Peace

As we return to worship practices, we encourage you to begin again sharing the peace in a way that is comfortable for you. Please be mindful that your way might not be for everyone. Handshakes, elbow or fist bump, a bow, a nod, a wave all work. Take this time to connect with others in a way that allows for the Peace of Christ to flow through and amongst us.

Children's Choir

Ages K-6th 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 2nd 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 7th – 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—Join Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall for Call Committee information.

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—Call Committee

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 3 Sunday

Lent 5
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-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

April 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

April 6 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Worship
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

April 7 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 10 Sunday

Palm Sunday
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:00 PM Order of Saint John Appreciation Lunch
12:15 PM Book Group

Sunday School Talking Points

In "Faces of Easter, Lesson 6", the students see the Last Supper of Jesus and his Disciples pictured on the lesson card. Preceding this, they will be learning how Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, palm branches waving. They will hear about Jesus teaching in the temple, sharing a widow's offering, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal, and the arrest of Jesus.

Ask your children what part of the story stuck with them most. Why?

Ask your children what they think is the most important part of this story. Why do they think it is the most important?

What is God trying to tell us in this story?

As we have covered a different story from the life of Jesus for the past 6 weeks, ask your child which story they remember the most. What is important to them about this particular lesson?

Spring Spruce-Up

Saturday, April 9

9:00 AM -12:00 PM

(Lunch Provided)

All children, families, singles, everyone of all ages, are invited to a Kountze spring spruce-up. It's time to give our beautiful facility some TLC as we head into Holy week. With a 52,000 sq. ft. building, it's hard for the staff to do everything, so once in a while we need to rally the troops and pitch in and do some deep cleaning, polishing, dusting, etc. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 9:00 AM where you can pick from a list of areas that need some attention. Dusters, furniture polish, buckets, towels, etc. will be provided but if you have a favorite, please bring it. At noon we will return to the Fellowship Hall and enjoy lunch before departing. So that we can make sure we have

enough food please call the office or email Jim (jim@kmlchurch.org) if you plan on attending.

April Service Project for the Youth of Kountze Saturday, April 9

9:00 AM -12:00 PM (Lunch Provided)

The youth and family service work for the month of April will be helping at the Spring Spruce-Up Event - See article above. RSVP at the church of ☒ice by calling 402-341-7761 or to jim@kmlchurch.org if you plan on attending so we can be sure there is enough food for everyone. Hope to see you there!

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, April 12

12:00 PM

Augustana Lutheran Church,

Guests are welcome, Lunch—\$7.00—Reservations required, to Faith, 402-734-4629 by Friday, April 8. Program-Restoring Dignity by Hannah Wyble, Freewill offering to Restoring Dignity

Diaper Drive

We are having a diaper drive for the Bowari family. They need diapers size 1 and up (no newborn sizes please). If you would like to provide diapers, please bring them to church and put them in the large brown box next to the box for the Pantry box. Your donations will be appreciated.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Links to

our giving page and Lutheran Disaster Response can be found in the Friday e-news or a checked marked "Eastern Europe Crisis Response can be given to Kountze Memorial and we will make sure it gets to the right place. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

Kountze Food Pantry

We have exciting news at the Kountze Food Pantry! Beginning May 16th we will be returning to a guest choice, indoor service! This means a lot less heavy lifting and more fun for the volunteers. If you choose to join us, you will be expected to stand or sit at a station and offer our guests a choice in your category. There are 12 different stations at each shift. The first shift is from 10-11 and the second shift is from 11-1. In addition we will need greeters and carry out volunteers. You are welcome to sign up for both shifts. We all look forward to returning to normal!

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 using the following link:

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

Usher Sign-up for Holy Week and Easter

If you will be available during Holy Week and Easter, we could use your help as Ushers. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Nave for you to add your name according to your availability.

Communion Assistants and Lectors Needed

We need you for Holy Week and Easter - and Sundays in general. If you are already serving as a Communion Assistant and/or Lector, please sign up on Servant Keeper or call the church office to sign up according to your availability. If you aren't currently serving as a Communion Assistant or Lector but would like to, please contact Debbie in the church office to sign up or to get a link to the Sign-up Genius Page. We will walk you through a training session before you serve.

Hot Easter Breakfast

8:00 - 10:45 AM

Plan to have Easter Breakfast with us. Egg Casserole, Fruit, Potatoes, Pastries, Juice, and Coffee are on the menu. If you are able to assist in making this meal for the congregation, we are looking for people to help on Saturday Morning for set-up, Sunday Morning Chefs, Sunday Morning Servers, Sunday Morning Clean-up crew, and Pastry Donations. Let us know how you might help make this Easter Morning time a shared celebration for all.

LENT

Our Lenten Focus

Worship times each Wednesday of Lent are at 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Music will be provided at both service.

The following five weeks, For The Peace of the Whole World exploring our call to Just Peacemaking will be our theme. Each week we will consider a specific component in the formation of a just peace theology.

April 6 Peace

It is the hope you will consider gathering in community and worship for these times, to grow and deepen our faith, through the Lent season.

Lenten Meals

Lunch Served 11:00 - Noon

Supper served 5:30 - 6:30 PM

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert.

Meals are free will offering.

Menu for April 6

Choice of beef barley soup or ham and bean soup, assorted wraps

If you would like to help in the kitchen, please contact Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org).

April 9 and 10

PALM SUNDAY

5 PM | Saturday

9 AM and 11 AM | Sunday

Children's Message & Palm Procession (Sunday Only)

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 134 11:00: 102 Compline: 72

Wednesday: 12:15: 28 6:30: 43

Total: 343

Streaming: 82

Cox Cable: 153

Pantry Guests Served: 731 (inc. 321 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21

Offering:

\$20,173.33 (Regular) \$3,000.96 (Specials)

\$1,297.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christ's death and resurrection gives us hope.

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

Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany
Monday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord will prepare the way
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	Pressing on toward the goal
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	The wisdom and strength of God
Thursday	Romans 6:1-14	Dying and rising with Christ
Friday	1 Peter 1:17-25	Call to holy living
Saturday	Psalms 126	A harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes



*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. **Philippians 3:10a (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith that trusts in the power of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the source of life that knows no end. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant grace, with this gift of food we give you thanks and praise, for you continue to do great things for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God and the power of Christ's resurrection give you hope.

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

- How do you show someone that you love them through actions and/or words?
- How do you show your love for God in Christ through actions and/or words?

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

Paul rejects any understanding of a righteousness, that is, having a right relationship with God, based on anything we do or are. Like Mary in John 12, faith in Christ displays extravagant love and thankfulness. Our faith and our hope reflect a living and loving relationship to Christ who endured all things, including death, for us. It expresses a trust in God that will not be taken away from us. We, like Paul, can see our own life story in Christ's story. Life and death will not take away our living hope in the resurrection from the dead. Hope is a confidence that allows us to join Paul and say that we "*press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus*" (v. 14). It is a life filled with confidence in God, that is, confidence in Christ that overcomes all our doubts and fears.

Discuss: How does confidence in God through Jesus Christ help you overcome your doubts and fears?

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for Jesus Christ and his righteousness, for he is the one who gives us confidence in you and your promise for our lives now and forevermore. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who may have lost hope and is feeling in despair?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. Walking outside can improve your mood, improve blood circulation, and is good exercise. While walking, think about your daily schedule and your plan for the weeks to come. Pray for confidence through God in Christ for all that lies ahead. If children are present, take sidewalk chalk and draw pictures of what they are thankful for or what they see outside. After the walk, light a candle and say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.** Close with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14--23:56