

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

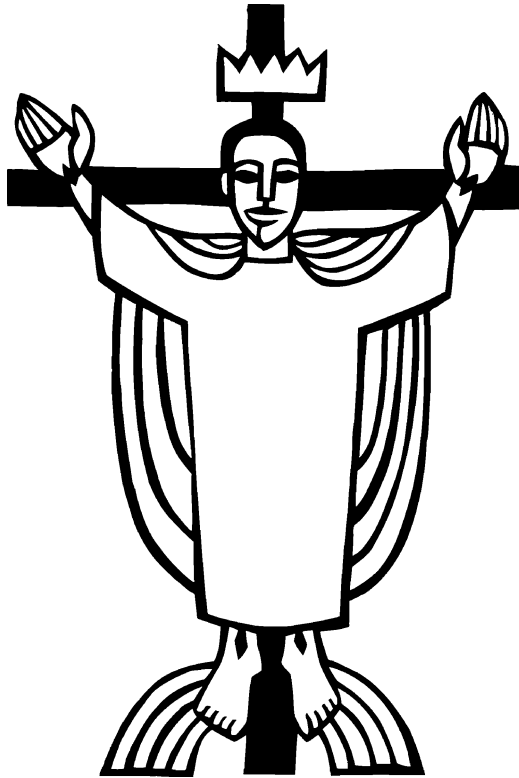
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

November 20, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

CHRIST the KING



*Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C** Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.  
We have ignored voices that call for your justice.  
We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness.  
We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community.  
We truly repent of things we have done and left undone.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Restore our troubled spirits,  
so that we may live in newness,  
follow the way of the Spirit,  
and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

**P** Rejoice and be glad!  
God hears the prayers of all who cry out,  
and restores us to life through the death  
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

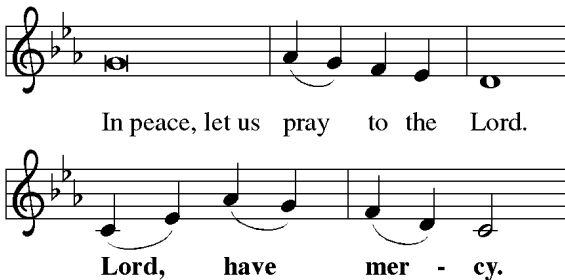
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> All creatures, worship God most high!<br/>         Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:<br/>         Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>         Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;<br/>         sing, sister moon and stars of night:<br/>         Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p><b>4</b> All who for love of God forgive,<br/>         all who in pain and sorrow grieve:<br/>         Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>         Christ bears your burdens and your fears;<br/>         still make your song amid the tears:<br/>         Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
| <p><b>2</b> Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain<br/>         you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:<br/>         Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>         Dear sister water, useful, clear,<br/>         make music for your Lord to hear:<br/>         Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p>    | <p><b>6</b> O sisters, brothers, take your part,<br/>         and worship God with humble heart:<br/>         Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>         All creatures, bless the Father, Son,<br/>         and Holy Spirit, Three in One:<br/>         Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p>       |

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite  
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

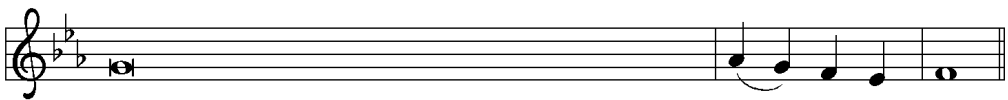
## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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



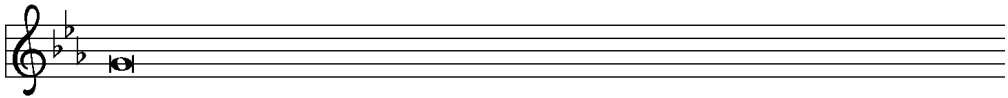
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For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



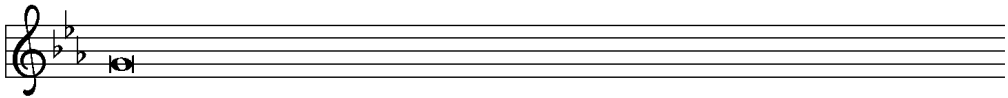
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

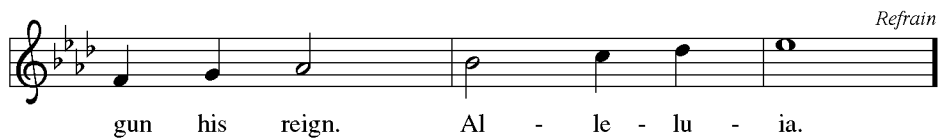
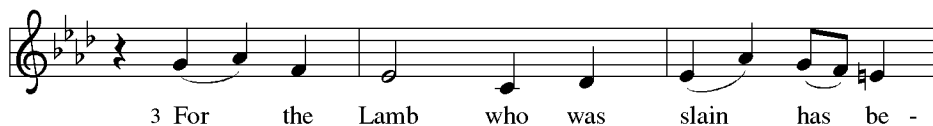
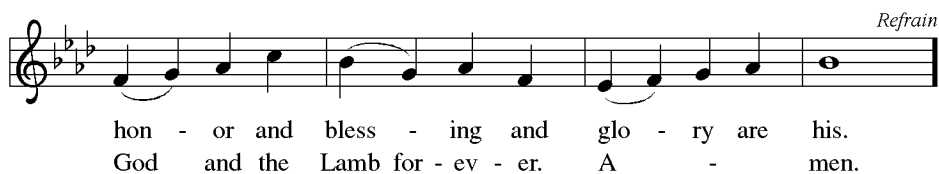
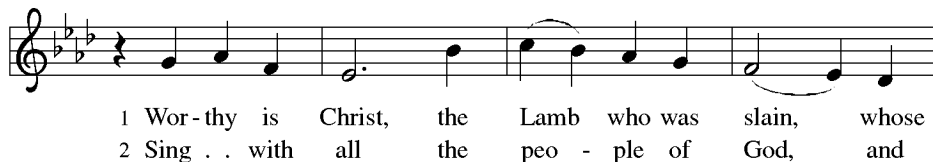
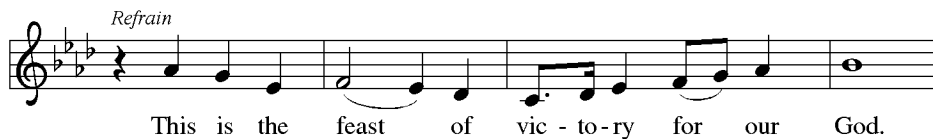


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God, our true life,  
**G** to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through 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 23:1-6**

*Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.*

**W**oe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

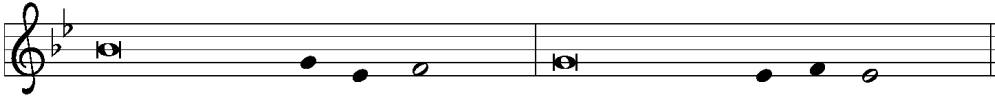
<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

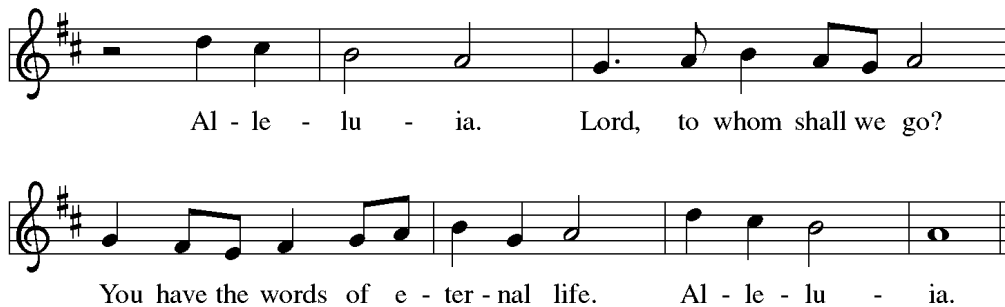
## PSALM 46

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



(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 23:33-43**

*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.*

**W**hen they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>“Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** 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 return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Griffith*



*(stand)*

## OFFERING OF STEWARDSHIP INTENT CARDS

*As we sing the following hymn, please bring your stewardship intent cards forward and place them in the baskets up front.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Now Thank We All Our God”*

**ELW 840**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Now thank we all our God<br/>with hearts and hands and voices,<br/>who wondrous things has done,<br/>in whom this world rejoices;<br/>who, from our mothers' arms,<br/>has blest us on our way<br/>with countless gifts of love,<br/>and still is ours today.</p> | <p><b>2</b> Oh, may this bounteous God<br/>through all our life be near us,<br/>with ever joyful hearts<br/>and blessed peace to cheer us,<br/>and keep us all in grace,<br/>and guide us when perplexed,<br/>and free us from all harm<br/>in this world and the next.</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> All praise and thanks to God<br/>the Father now be given,<br/>the Son, and Spirit blest,<br/>who reign in highest heaven,<br/>the one eternal God,<br/>whom earth and heav'n adore;<br/>for thus it was, is now,<br/>and shall be evermore.</p>                   |   |

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649;  
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us God's 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response:    **℟** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **☩** receive 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 Christopher Johnston, nephew of Sharon West; to the family and friends of Kathryn Stromer, wife of late Rev. Harold Stromer

**Thanksgiving:** for the birth of Giada Marisol, daughter of Sheila & Leon Valquier (November 12, 2022)

**Prayers This Week:** Marge Grabow, Pr. Bob Johnson

**On-going Care:** Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Chris Meyer, Lara McCormick, Debra Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, 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; Katie Larson, Columbia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

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

## **THE PEACE IS SHARED**

**℟** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**☩** And also with you.

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECIEVED

*We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!*



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Joyful, Joyful, Sing Praise”*

by Jay Althouse

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“We Are an Offering”*

ELW 692

A musical score for the Offertory Hymn "We Are an Offering" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing." The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, notes, rests, and triplets (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes).

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an

of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

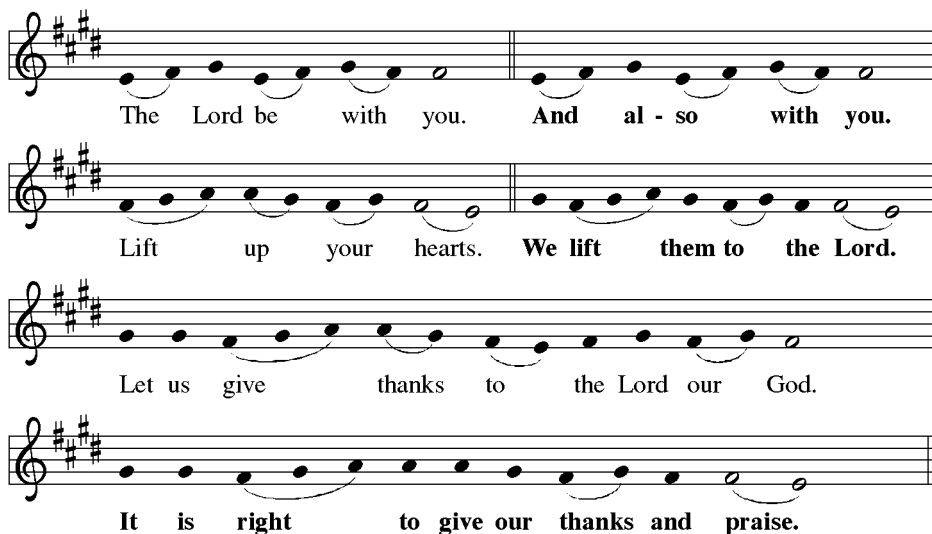
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, Maker of all things,  
☑ As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

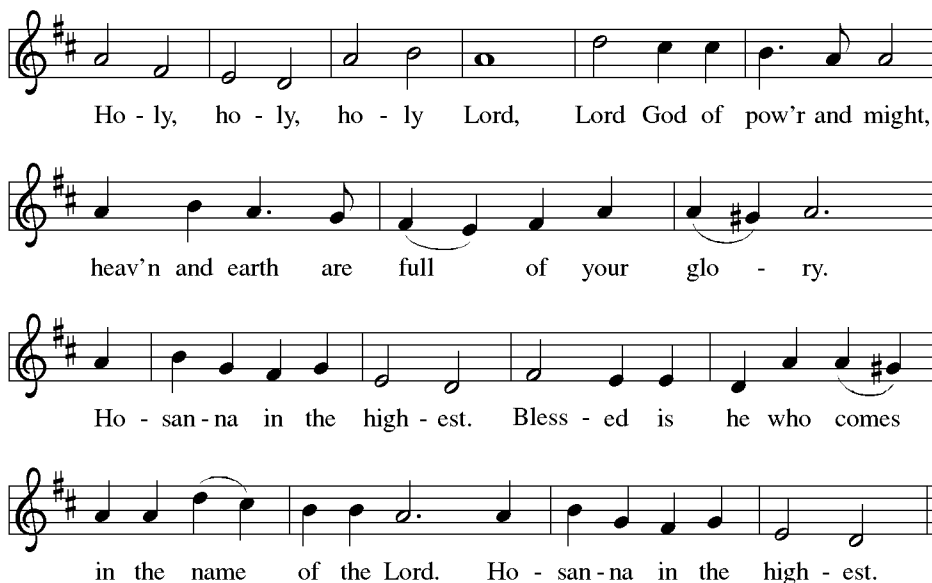
## HOLY COMMUNION



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.

## PREFACE

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory ...
- For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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

- P** Remembering, therefore, his salutary command ...

To you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

- 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.

## 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, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

-  Christ spreads a table before you.
-  Gather here with all the saints.

(sit)

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.*

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- 1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,  
fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

- 3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

## “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

- 1 Blessed be the God of Israel,  
who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us,  
and grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy,  
of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill the promise  
to bring our people peace.

- 2 Now from the house of David  
a child of grace has come,  
a Savior who will lead us  
to our eternal home.  
Before him goes the herald,  
forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation,  
the harbinger of day.

- 3 On all by death imprisoned  
the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness  
upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims  
along the paths of peace;  
oh, bless our God and Savior  
with songs that never cease!

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996, based on Luke 1:68-79  
Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

(stand)

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** We give you thanks, most gracious God,  
**G** that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

- P** The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope, ✠ bless you now and forever.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”*

**ELW 389**  
**vs. 1, 2, 4, 5**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.<br>The cross stands empty to the sky.<br>Let streets and homes with praises ring.<br>Love, drowned in death, shall never die. | <b>4</b> Women and men, in age and youth,<br>can feel the Spirit, hear the call,<br>and find the way, the life, the truth,<br>revealed in Jesus, freed for all.    |
| <b>2</b> Christ is alive! No longer bound<br>to distant years in Palestine,<br>but saving, healing, here and now,<br>and touching ev’ry place and time.                      | <b>5</b> Christ is alive, and comes to bring<br>good news to this and every age,<br>till earth and sky and ocean ring<br>with joy, with justice, love, and praise. |

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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### DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.  
**G** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠   ✠   ✠



### KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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

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

**November 19 & 20, 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 worshipping, 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.*

### **Today at Kountze**

### **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. Our form of distribution is Intinction.

### **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.

**Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.**



**Welcome** to Louis Flake, our new Night Manager. Louis became a member of Kountze Memorial in June of this year and is a volunteer in the Pantry on Mondays and Fridays and helps with the assembly of the Good News or other mailings we have. He will probably be moving into the apartment sometime in December. Louis will be a good addition to our Kountze Staff.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God given in honor of Lynn Schneiderman's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Kountze Café**

#### **Sundays from 9:30—11:00 AM**

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast (this Sunday) and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

### **Children's Choir**

#### **Second Floor Music Room**

#### **9:15 AM (after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)**

#### **Grades K-5 - Choir**

#### **Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants**

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

### **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). This week: Christmas Program Rehearsal

### **Youth Forum**

#### **Sundays, 10:10 AM in Youth Center**

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to gather each Sunday between worship. **This week:** No Forum—LYON Assembly—Mia Valquier and Pastor Shari are attending the NE Synod LYON (Lutheran Youth of Nebraska) Assembly in Kearney, NE this weekend **Next week:** Advent Fair

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Updates—Call Process, Stewardship, etc. **Next week:** Advent Fair

### Celebrating God's Generosity

#### Stewardship Intent Day

#### Saturday, November 19

#### Sunday, November 20

As we continue to ponder the ways that we can respond to God's generosity, we prepare our hearts and minds for Stewardship Intent day. Thank you for the many ways you respond to what God is doing in our midst. Intent cards are

Celebrating God's  
Generosity



## Jewish Muslim Christian **Interfaith Thanksgiving**

"The Road Home"

Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Hosted By:  
First United Methodist Church  
7020 Cass Street  
Omaha, NE 68132

Coffee, sweets, and reception  
to follow Service

Child Care available

available from the Ushers if you didn't bring it from home.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### November 20 Sunday

Christ the King

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

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

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

### November 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

5:30 PM Donor Committee

6:00 PM Bible Study

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### November 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### November 23 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study

12:15 PM Worship

### November 24 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peters

### November 25 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

### November 26 Saturday

9:30 AM Decorate for Advent

5:00 PM Worship

### November 27 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall - No Sunday School/  
Forums - join us

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Bible Study

#### Mondays, 6:00 PM or

#### Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

We are exploring Gratitude. Enter through the Farnam Office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

### Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's

#### Thanksgiving Day, November 24

#### 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28<sup>th</sup> Street) Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon.

Volunteers are needed to:

- cook &/or carve turkeys on Tuesday,
- set up the night before,
- donate pies/desserts, and
- serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal.

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. Contact Pr. Hall, Jacob Rump, Anne Dey, or the church office to volunteer. You can also sign up on SignUp Genius - use the QR code on this page. **Note:** when signing up for pies, please add the number of pies you intend to bring. Thanks. **Note #2:** The cost of turkeys this year are almost double of what we had budgeted (over \$900 instead of \$500). If you would like to help offset the cost of the turkeys, we would appreciate it. You can put a check in the offering plate, donate online, etc. Please put "turkeys" in the memo line. Thanks!



## Advent Fair

**Sunday, November 27**

**10:00 AM—Noon**

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. **Please bring** diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

## Advent Meals

**Lunch 11:00 AM – Noon**

**Supper from 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

We are once again making preparations to provide lunch and dinner meals again this year. This is where you come in, we will need some volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. We can always use volunteers to help put out placemats, pour drinks, run the dishwasher, etc. so no culinary experience is necessary. If you love to cook or just want to join in the fun we would be most happy to have you help us with one or all four meals. Please consider taking an hour or two this Advent season to volunteer before, during, or after one or more of the meals. Please call the Church office or email: jim@kmlchurch.org with any questions or to volunteer.

## Kountze Food Pantry & WOWT

**Stuff the Bus Food Drive**

**Thursday, December 1**

We are honored to have been chosen as one of two pantries to be recipients of the WOWT Stuff the Bus Food Drive! While this is very exciting news, and we are grateful, it will require a good deal of work and many hands. The receiving event will take place on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. We need volunteers to sort and store canned goods at Kountze beginning at 9:00 AM in two-hour shifts. We also need two kind souls at a time to man the drop-off site at the NP Dodge building at 87<sup>th</sup> and Dodge St. beginning at 7:00 AM. We also need competent forklift drivers. If you are willing to help us fulfill our mission to "Feed the Poor, in Christ's Name," please sign up at the following link:

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

## Parent Night Out

**Friday, December 2**

**6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at KMLC**

High School and Middle School youth will keep your children active while you take some time for yourself. A meal will be served and activities are provided. Pastor Shari will be present as youth of all ages connect with one another for a fun time together. Email shari@kmlchurch to register your children preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 6<sup>th</sup> - 12 graders, let Pastor Shari know if you can assist during this time.

## Sr. High Lock-In

**for ELCA Omaha-wide Churches and Friends**

**Friday night, Dec. 2**

**10:00 PM to 7:00 AM at KMLC**

Cost is \$5 and a snack to share. Sign up with Pastor Shari by Wednesday, November 30. We are bringing back the Search of the Holy Grail!

## Decorate for Advent

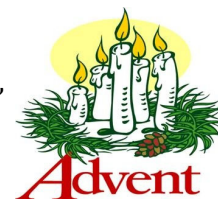
**Saturday, November 26**

**9:30 AM**

If you would like to help decorate for Advent, a small crew will be here and would really appreciate any help you can give them.

## Advent begins November 26-27

In addition to the Saturday/Sunday services, we will gather for midweek services beginning November 30. See below for the schedule.



## Alternative Gifts

**November 27—December 18**

When you give someone an Alternative Gift, you triple the blessings: The person who receives the gift not only feels your love and generosity, they will be honored that you gave them a gift that truly makes a difference in someone's life. You will also feel the blessing of giving a gift that represents God's love and compassion for all people and rejects the commercialization of Christmas. The third blessing is for the child or family who benefits from your gift of food, medicine, education, or a step towards self-sufficiency. An order sheet will be in your bulletins beginning next Sunday, November 27.

**Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, & 21**

**Eucharist at 12:15 PM**

**Vespers at 6:30 PM** featuring Marty Haugen's musical setting, *Holden Evening Prayer*. The pastors' reflections at these services will follow the theme "Holy Darkness."

## Candlelight Carol Service

**Saturday, December 17**

**5:00 PM; Prelude 4:40 PM**

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with singing and worshipful reflection. Nursery is provided and join us for a dessert reception following the service.

## Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 18**

**9:00 AM**

## Christmas Eve Services

**4 PM, 7 PM (Livestream & Cox Cable), and 11 PM**

## Christmas Day Service

**10 AM** (Please Note: Only one service Christmas Day)

## Attendance & Giving

**Saturday: 19**

**Sunday: 9:00: 137 11:00: 67**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 7 Confirmation: 6**

**Total: 236**

**Streaming: 56**

**Cox Cable:**

**Pantry Guests Served: 944 (inc. 356 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 10**

**Offering:**

\$6828.30 (Regular) \$26093.35 (Specials)

\$272.00 (Debt Reduction)

*We are witnesses of God's faithfulness.*

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

Sunday	Luke 21:5-19	Suffering for Jesus' sake
Monday	Malachi 4:1-2a	The great day of the Lord
Tuesday	2 Thess. 3:6-13	Warning against idleness
Wednesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Thursday	Psalms 33:1-9	The greatness of God
Friday	Hebrews 3:1-6	Jesus is greater than Moses
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king



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*O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. Psalm 98:1 (NRSV)*

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

Come Lord Jesus; come Holy Spirit, give us courage to bear witness to your love and faithfulness with songs of joy during the good times and the bad times. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a sign of your faithfulness that gives us strength to endure all things through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

May God give you peace during the good times and the bad times.

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

- What are some scary or troubled times you have experienced?
- When bad things happen, who do you turn to? What do you do?

*Read:* Luke 21:5-19.

Luke's Gospel is written after Roman soldiers demolished the Jerusalem temple in 70 A.D. Jesus' followers were not to pin their hopes on the glory of the temple or on anything in life that seems to promise security and stability. Jesus warns that there will not be an end to daily struggles. There will continue to be wars, earthquakes, plagues and famines. Jesus could have added hurricanes, floods, droughts, and more examples of instability. Truth itself has always been under assault, making life even more unstable. In the meantime, what do we do? We announce the truth of Jesus and God's promises that will not be conquered. We live as witnesses to the truth of God's final conquest in Christ and faithfully endure life-threatening occasions. Troubled times—whether in the first or twenty-first century—are an opportunity to speak the truth of God's love and faithfulness in Christ.

*Discuss:* In what ways have you experienced God's love and faithfulness in difficult times?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, as we experience scary times, give us faith to trust in your promise of victory over sin and death and the confidence to speak the truth in love through Christ. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage those who experience difficulties in daily life?

Psalm 98 calls on all the earth to *make a joyful noise*. This week take a walk outside and look at God's creation around you. When you return home, draw a picture or write a list of things you saw. Then make up your own tune to use as you sing these words: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things (v. 1a).

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46  
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43