

# 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)

January 29, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*stand*)

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- G** Amen.
- P** Joined in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- P** We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,
- G** for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, life-giving rivers – the Missouri and the Platte, Standing Bear and Cunningham Lakes.  
You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.  
Your son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.
- P** Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“O God of Mercy, God of Light”*

ELW 714 vs. 1-4

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 O God of mercy, God of light,<br/>in love and mercy infinite,<br/>teach us, as ever in your sight,<br/>to live our lives in you.</b></p>                     | <p><b>3 Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:<br/>to feel for those his blood has bought,<br/>that ev'ry deed and word and thought<br/>may work a work for you.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 You sent your Son to die for all,<br/>that our lost world might hear your call;<br/>oh, hear us lest we stray and fall!<br/>We rest our hope in you.</b></p> | <p><b>4 For all are kindred, far and wide,<br/>since Jesus Christ for all has died;<br/>grant us the will, and grace provide,<br/>to love them all in you.</b></p>  |

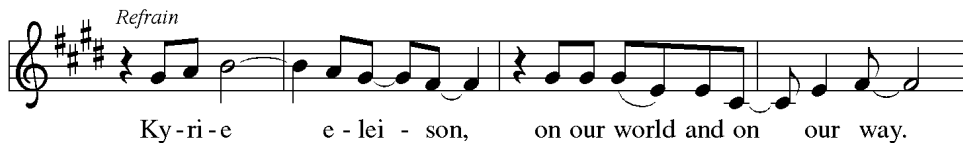
Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

## 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



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

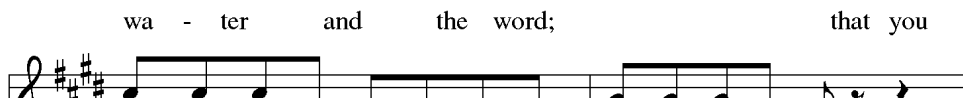
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

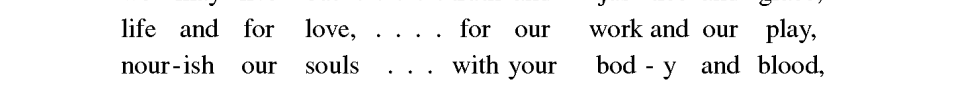
wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Glo - ria\_a Dios, glo - ria\_a Dios,  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

glo - ria\_a Dios en los cie - los.  
glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,  
Peace be to you, peace be to me,

paz pa - ra to - da la tie - rra.  
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Holy God,
- ☑ you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “weari­ed” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

**H**ear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 15

*(the organ will play the short melody, then all will join in singing the refrain. As we read the Psalm responsively, the **R** indicates where we will sing the refrain in unison)*




<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart; **R****

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. 

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31


*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

**T**he message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.


<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

 Word of God, Word of Life.

 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

**W**hen Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**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 Duminy*

(stand)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Let Streams of Living Justice"*

**ELW 710**

**1 Let streams of living justice  
flow down upon the earth;  
give freedom's light to captives,  
let all the poor have worth.  
The hungry's hands are pleading,  
the workers claim their rights,  
the mourners long for laughter,  
the blinded seek for sight.  
Make liberty a beacon,  
strike down the iron pow'r;  
abolish ancient vengeance:  
proclaim your people's hour.**

**2 For healing of the nations,  
for peace that will not end,  
for love that makes us lovers,  
God grant us grace to mend.  
Weave our varied gifts together;  
knit our lives as they are spun;  
on your loom of time enroll us  
till our thread of life is run.  
O great weaver of our fabric,  
bind church and world in one;  
dye our texture with your radiance,  
light our colors with your sun.**

**3 Your city's built to music;  
we are the stones you seek;  
your harmony is language;  
we are the words you speak.  
Our faith we find in service,  
our hope in others' dreams,  
our love in hand of neighbor;  
our homeland brightly gleams.  
Inscribe our hearts with justice;  
your way—the path untried;  
your truth—the heart of stranger;  
your life—the Crucified.**

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Text © 1989 William Whitla.



(sit)

## **PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS (9:00 AM)**

- ☐ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*Carly & Matthew Brown*  
*Edmund & Dietrich*

*Bill & Bette McCoy*  
*Associate Members*

*Corinna & Trever Osborne*  
*Hadley & Wyatt*

*John Vaughan*  
*Violet*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 AM)**

- ☐ 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.**

- ☐ In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

- ☐ *Sisters and brothers* in Christ: do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

May almighty God – Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit – who gave you the will to reaffirm your baptismal vows also give you the grace and the strength to uphold them.

- ☐ People of God: do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

☑ **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

- ☐ Let us pray: we give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

☑ **Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☐ Merciful God,  
☑ **receive our prayer.**

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

**Thanksgiving:** for the birth of August Charles, son of Brenden & Becky Frerck (Jan. 12, 2023)

**Prayers This Week:** Bruce, June & Ryan Anderson

**On-going Care:** Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Marge Grabow, Casey Hansen, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Kathy Preninger, Darlene White, 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 RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or 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

“Blessed Are They”

by Lee Dengler

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487 vs. 2

2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?

What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?

This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Liberating God,  
**C** you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, 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.
- 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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

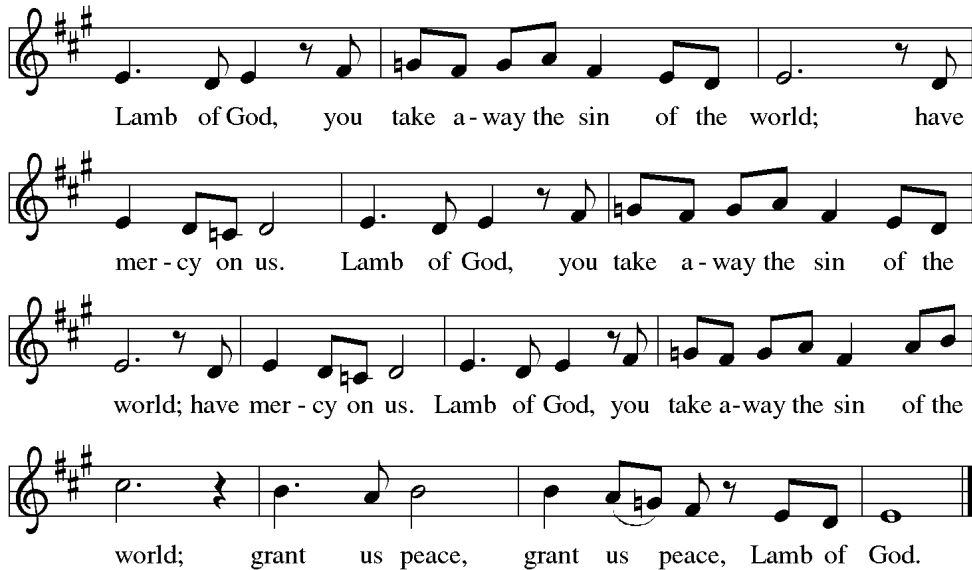
## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: ...  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** With this bread and cup ... We look with hope for his coming.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit ... Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** All praise and glory are yours, ... one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## 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, Lamb of God.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come and taste the joy of God!

**C** Amen.

(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.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Jesus, the very thought of you<br/>fills us with sweet delight;<br/>but sweeter far your face to view<br/>and rest within your light.</p> <p><b>2</b> No voice can sing, no heart can frame,<br/>nor can the mind recall<br/>a sweeter sound than your blest name,<br/>O Savior of us all!</p> | <p><b>3</b> O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,<br/>O joy of all the meek,<br/>how kind you are to those who fall!<br/>How good to those who seek!</p> <p><b>4</b> O Jesus, be our joy today;<br/>help us to prize your love;<br/>grant us at last to hear you say:<br/>"Come, share my home above."</p> |
|--|---|

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

*“To Be Your Presence”*

ELW 546

- 1** To be your presence is our mission here,  
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,  
to be your heart of mercy ever near,  
alleluia!
- 2** To be your presence is our mission bold,  
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,  
alleluia!
- 3** To be your presence is our mission blest,  
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,  
alleluia!
- 4** We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,  
to serve your people is our call and choice,  
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,  
alleluia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939  
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## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

## PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Holy One,**  
**☑ we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.**

## SENDING

## BLESSING

- P** The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”*

**ELW 551**

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | <b>The Spirit sends us forth to serve;<br/>we go in Jesus' name<br/>to bring glad tidings to the poor,<br/>God's favor to proclaim.</b>       | 3 | <b>We go to be the hands of Christ,<br/>to scatter joy like seed<br/>and, all our days, to cherish life,<br/>to do the loving deed.</b> |
| 2 | <b>We go to comfort those who mourn<br/>and set the burdened free;<br/>where hope is dim, to share a dream<br/>and help the blind to see.</b> | 4 | <b>Then let us go to serve in peace,<br/>the gospel to proclaim.<br/>God's Spirit has empowered us;<br/>we go in Jesus' name.</b>       |

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB.  
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## DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.  
**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
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

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

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

**January 28 & 29, 2023**

*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. 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. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

#### **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 8:45 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.

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



**Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God** by Bruce & Barb Nissen in honor of Barb's mom, Nita Mueller, for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; in gratitude for granddaughter, Mara's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, given by Kimberly Grassmeyer

#### **Kountze Café**

**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 and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

#### **Welcome New Members!**

Today we welcome new members. Come to the Fellowship Hall during Adult Forum time and introduce yourself to them if you haven't already. Thank you again to John Fox Florist for providing boutonnieres for the new members.

#### **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).

#### **Sunday School Focus: The Prophets**

The Prophets focuses on who a prophet might be and what they do. The students will be examining Old Testament prophets, focusing on Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the 12 minor prophets.

#### **Youth Forum**

**Grades 7—12**

7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Fun and games **Next week:** Time with Vicar Gretchen

## 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:** Welcome New Members  
**Next Week:** Presentation of 2023 Congregational Budget

### Dinners for 8

#### Sign up by Sunday, January 29

We are providing an opportunity to get to know others in

the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months. Placed in a group of 8 people, you will decide to eat out or do potluck at a host home. It is the hope that you will meet each month for a meal for the months of February, March, and April. Through meal and conversation our relationships with one another can grow as we continue the work of Christ at Kountze Memorial. Groups will be formed with those interested and notification of the groups will be distributed by February 1! See you around the table!

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### January 29 Sunday

Epiphany 4  
Receive New Members  
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 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### January 30 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Bible Study

### January 31 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### February 1 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### February 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### February 3 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 4 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### February 5 Sunday

Epiphany 5  
Holden Deposit Due  
Homebound Communion  
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 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Class

#### Wednesdays

##### 6:00 PM

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Lounge. During the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the church.

### Bible Study

#### Mondays, 6:00 PM or

#### Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

We will explore Epiphany Themes as we unwrap the present of Christ in our lives. Enter through the Farnam office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing. Bible Study will not take place on February 6 through April 12.

### Journey to Denver

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Registration is extended till **January 29** for \$400.00 and **February 25** for \$500.00. Our home base will be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study and worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska Synod ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer! Friends are welcome to join our group.

### Carol Joy Holling Camp 2023

Register for camp by January 31 and *receive \$50 off and get a free CJH Camp Beanie*. The Early Bird \$50 discount applies to all full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The first 500 campers registered before January 31 will receive a CJH Camp Beanie.

**KMLC Camp Week** is June 18—23! Invite your family and friends to join you for a week at camp.

## February Service Project

**Sunday, February 5**

**10:10 AM (during Sunday School)**

The Sunday School children will be making Valentine's Day cards for the residents of deFreese manor as the February Service project. Come creative and ready to brighten the day of our neighbors!

## Pantry "Souper" Bowl

**Now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 12**

The Kountze Women of the ELCA are collecting soup and peanut butter. There is a large bin in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!

## Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, February 14

12:00 Noon

Augustana Lutheran Church

For Info & Reservation call Faith at 402 734 4629

## Open My Heart, Lord

### A Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat

#### Exploring Spiritual Practices:

**Relational Prayer** with Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp

**Zentangle** with Diane Harpster of [dianeharpsterart.com](http://dianeharpsterart.com)

**Body Prayer** with Emily Wageman

#### Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall

(enter west office door on Farnam or handicap entrance from west parking lot, by orange tower)

**Saturday, February 18 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Cost is \$10** day of the retreat

♦ Salad Luncheon provided ♦ Supplies for all Spiritual Practices provided ♦ Childcare can be provided as requested ♦ Diane Harpster Art will be able to purchase during the event. Join us as we spend time learning new faith practices that can be continued through the Season of Lent, as we take time to share our faith journeys as women of the church. Please register by Wednesday, February 8 to the church office, sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk, or email [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) - Name, email, or phone number (only used to notify of event changes), and if you need childcare.

## The KMLC Scholarship Program

### Application Deadline: March 1

Funds are available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university, or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church web site at [www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON MARCH 1, 2023. **Applications received after this date will not be accepted.** Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your

applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by email to [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)

## Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 2 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**
- Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you are able to serve.

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to e-mail

[Nursery@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Nursery@kmlchurch.org) or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

## Kountze Pantry

We are collecting gloves, especially adult men's gloves. We never seem to have enough! We also would appreciate peanut butter and canned (not jars) pasta sauce as these two items are difficult to purchase in quantity. If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please sign up at the following link:

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



## Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 25

Sunday: 9:00: 142 11:00: 74

Wednesday: 12:15: 8 Confirmation: 6

Total: 255

Streaming: 72

Cox Cable:

Pantry Guests Served: 1248 (inc. 474 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$10376.53 (Regular) \$3081.28 (Specials)

\$617.5 (Debt Reduction)

*God is wisdom, power, and joy.*



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

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount
Monday	Micah 6:1-8	True obedience
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Message of the cross
Wednesday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the Plain
Thursday	1 Samuel 17:31-49	David and Goliath
Friday	Exodus 4:1-17	Moses' miraculous power
Saturday	Psalms 15	Life of the blameless
Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light

*For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1:22-24 (NRSV)*

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

God of wisdom, power, and joy, help us to see and believe that in Christ and his crucifixion you have established an eternal kingdom that will bless us now and always. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this gift of food strengthen us to show fairness to all, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you through Christ our crucified and risen Lord. Amen. (Micah 6:8)

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

May Christ the crucified one free you to live in peace and joy.

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

- How would you describe someone who is wise and powerful?
- Where we see weakness and foolishness, God can see strength and wisdom. How is this good news for us?

*Read:* Matthew 5:1-12.

This passage is called the Beatitudes, a description of true bliss, holiness, and joy. It begins the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). These words open Jesus' first public preaching and set the stage for Jesus' God-giving and life-saving work. It is a startling opening statement. Jesus reverses standard understandings of who is blessed in life. When things go well it is easy for us to say, "I am blessed." However, Jesus extends blessings not to the well-off, but to those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and others. Jesus says they are blessed and experiencing some form of God-given bliss now and will also experience a reward in heaven. In society we often struggle for power, recognition, and wealth. Jesus knows that God's standards are not the same. True glory, true wisdom, true joy in life is to experience daily life with a deep-seated compassion based on justice, kindness, and humbleness (Micah 6:8).

*Discuss:* Where in your life have you seen or experienced compassion based on God's standards?

*Pray:* **God of justice and mercy, open our eyes and our hearts to see the true joy of a life lived in relationship to you and in care of others through Christ Jesus, the crucified one. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you bless someone by doing an act of kindness?

Micah was a great prophet in Israel who lived long before Jesus was born. A prophet is a teacher and one who proclaims God's will. The people asked him what God required of them. Micah told them the Lord requires them to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Each day this week take time to sit in silence and consider your actions towards others. Ask yourself, "Where did I show justice, kindness, and mercy?" Then light a candle and pray: **Dear God, give me the desire to seek justice, kindness, and walk humbly each day with you and with all people. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10]  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20