

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

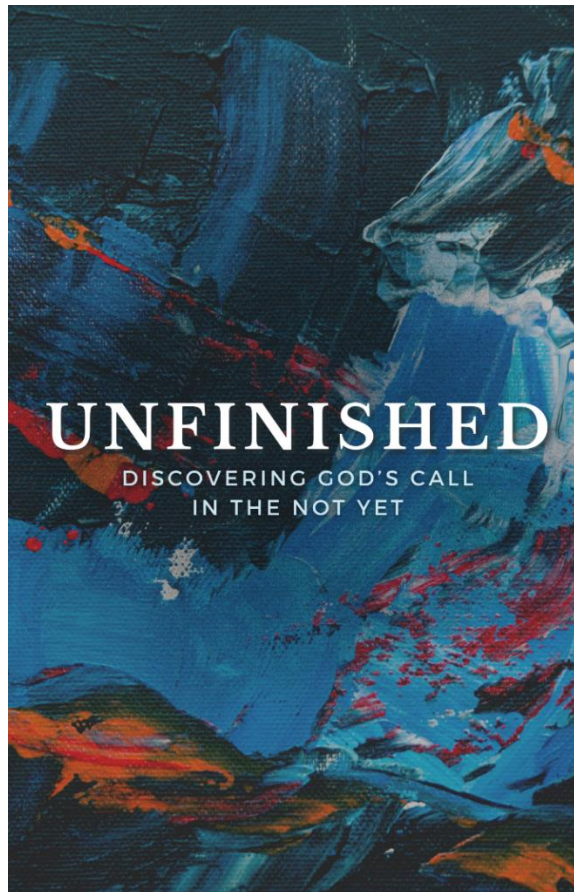
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
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March 26, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



*In today's gospel, Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

ELW 886 vs. 1-4, 6

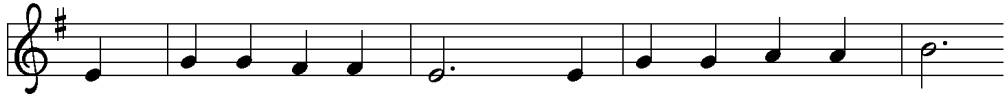
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing<br>my great Redeemer's praise,<br>the glories of my God and King,<br>the triumphs of his grace!          | <b>4</b> He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,<br>new life the dead receive;<br>the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,<br>the humble poor believe. |
| <b>2</b> My gracious Master and my God,<br>assist me to proclaim,<br>to spread through all the earth abroad<br>the honors of your name.              | <b>6</b> To God all glory, praise, and love<br>be now and ever giv'n<br>by saints below and saints above,<br>the church in earth and heav'n.      |
| <b>3</b> The name of Jesus charms our fears<br>and bids our sorrows cease,<br>sings music in the sinner's ears,<br>brings life and health and peace. |   |

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑** And also with you.

## KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Almighty God,

☑ your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."*

**T**he hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM 130** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

**in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

**more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

**from all their sins.**

### **SECOND READING**

**Romans 8:6-11**

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

**T**o set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 11:1-45**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

**N**ow a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**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)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“What Wondrous Love Is This”*

ELW 666 vs. 1-2, 4

**1** 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?

**2** When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

**4** 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 God's love for me,  
and through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

## 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.



## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    **P**    Merciful God,  
                  **G**    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 Patty Baker; to the family and friends of Margaret Johnson, mother of Bob (Pam) Johnson; to the family and friends of Gerald Klonglan, father of Jason Klonglan; to the family and friends of Wilma Wallin Sagers, mother of Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein

**Prayers This Week:** Jerry Fischer, Julie Green, Paul Morse, brother of Ralph Morse, Paul Sum, Bess Swanson

**On-going Care:** Marlys & Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Joel Brown, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, 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

**P**    The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**G**    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

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

arr. Dan Forrest

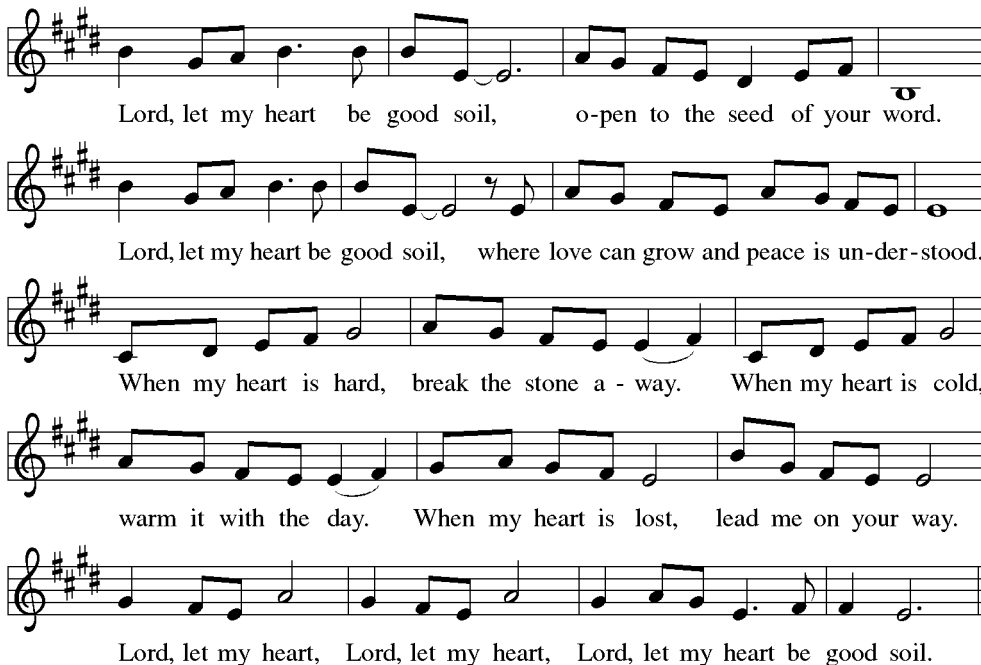
Emiliano Carrera-Ybanez, violin

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*

ELW 512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

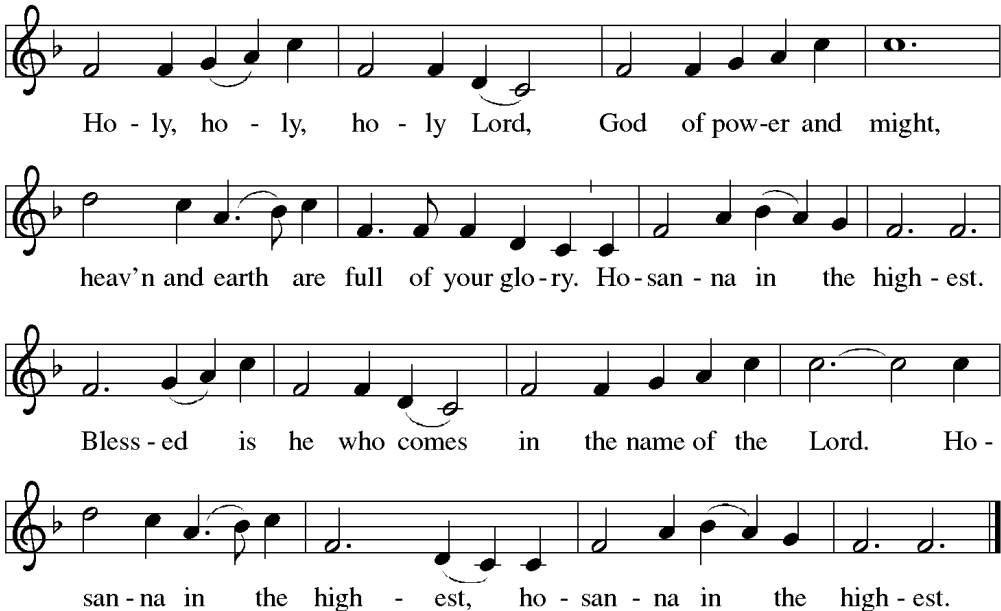
## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of good gifts,  
**C** receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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. 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-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover  
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P** O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.

**C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** With your holy ones of all times and places, ...  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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



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



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Come and receive Jesus,
- ☑ our strength in the wilderness.

(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.


HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“In This Feast of Love”


ACS 962



Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,                      täs - sä  
1 In this feast of love,                      in this  
2 In this bread and wine,                      in this  
3 Grant us peace, O Lord,                      grant us



pöy - däs - sä                      syn - ti - sil - le  
feast of love,                      Lord, you share your  
bread and wine,                      you have prom - ised,  
peace, O Lord;                      fill us with the



it - se - si an - nat,                      Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!  
blood and your bod - y,                      Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
Lord, to be with us,                      Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
joy of your Spir - it,                      ev - er - liv - ing Word.

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1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's  
 2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as  
 3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our



won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied  
 liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all  
 trea - sure and our song, in faith we



grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.  
 thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.  
 cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with  
 The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the  
 In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the



Christ from death we rise, drawn through the  
 veil of sin and grief, and in their  
 world be - loved and whole. In love re -



night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant  
 place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and  
 main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -



life, in - to a - bun - dant life.  
 peace, and robes of joy and peace.  
 told, God's won - ders still un - told.

(stand)

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Embodied God,  
**C** at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

- P** God, the giver of love, **+** Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“You Are the Way”*

**ELW 758**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> You are the way; to you alone<br/>from sin and death we flee;<br/>all those who search for God, you find<br/>and by your grace set free.</p> <p><b>2</b> You are the truth; your word alone<br/>true wisdom can impart;<br/>you only can inform the mind<br/>and purify the heart.</p> | <p><b>3</b> You are the life; the rending tomb<br/>proclaims your conqu'ring arm;<br/>and those who put their trust in you<br/>not death nor hell shall harm.</p> <p><b>4</b> You are the way, the truth, the life;<br/>grant us that way to know,<br/>that truth to keep, that life to win,<br/>whose joys eternal flow.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.

### DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

**+** **+** **+**

## **Worship with us this Lenten Season!**

### **Wednesdays in Lent**

11:00 AM	Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM	Lenten Worship
5:00 PM	Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM	Lenten Worship (in person and Livestream)

Digital Devotions are also available through links from the weekly e-news and our church website. There are a few options that you might find helpful:

- ⊖ Weekly Wednesday Jonah – Children and Family Ideas
- ⊖ Weekly Sunday Lectionary - Children and Family Ideas
- ⊖ Near and Now Weekly Bible Study
- ⊖ Daily Unfinished Devotional
- ⊖ Weekly Vocare Guided Meditations and Videos





## 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)

March 25 & 26, 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

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renee Fike given by Mary Jo Fike and family

### 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.

### Children's Choir

#### Second Floor Music Room

**Sundays, 9:15 AM**—(after the 9:00 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).

### Sunday School Focus:

#### Camp Sunday

**Sunday, March 26**

Staff from the camp will be present during the Christian Education hour (10:00 to 11:00 AM) to share information and lead camp activities. We encourage parents to attend with their youth. We will start our time together in the Link. It is the hope that youth from KMLC (K-12<sup>th</sup> grade) will attend camp at Carol Joy Holling this summer. Due to a gift to our church, we are able to pay for the cost of camp at Carol Joy Holling this year. Register your child for camp and let the church office know so we can get the payment to the camp on behalf of those attending. Please speak with a pastor if you need more information.

### 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:** Camp Sunday **Next week:** Easter Preparation

### Adult Forum

## 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.**



## Today at Kountze, *continued*

### Fellowship Hall

**10:10 AM**

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Pondering the Crucifixion, Part 3 **Next Week:** Palm Sunday (Fellowship)

### First Communion Class Continues

**Sunday, March 26**

**12:00 PM (following 11:00 AM service)**

**A light lunch is served before the hour long class.**

If your child is around second grade, or has expressed a curiosity about what it means to receive Communion, they are encouraged to join this class. First Communion will be taken on Maundy

Thursday, April 6. Please RSVP to Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org).

### March Service Project

The Sunday School is collecting items for the Nebraska Humane Society for the March service project. Items can be brought to church and left in front of the Sunday School office. A list of donations can be found on the Humane Society website and include standard items of food, treats, toys, blankets, and more. Items to be gathered also include many recyclable items such as cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, and plastic coffee containers.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### March 26 Sunday

Lent 5

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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:00 PM First Communion Class (2 of 2)

### March 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### March 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

### March 29 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal—Note date change

### March 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Christian Education Committee

### March 31 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

### April 2 Sunday

**Palm Sunday**

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-6<sup>th</sup> gr)

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Trivia

**LOCAL Beer, Patio, and Kitchen at Village Point**

**17305 Davenport St**

**Tuesday, March 28**

**7:00 PM**

Come be a part of an OLYA trivia team in this social outing! RSVP to Greta at [OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com](mailto:OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com).

### Our Lenten Focus "Unfinished"

**UNFINISHED** – Discovering God's Call in Not Yet is written by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox and will be our focus for Sundays of Lent. She writes, "The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, "we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate this

unfinished life by ourselves. God is here - present-tense, each and every day - calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us - over and over again."

We will be using the lectionary readings to focus on the following themes:

March 26      Called to Regret

April 2      Palm/Passion Sunday, Called to Experience God's Presence

April 9      Easter Sunday, Called to Resurrection

**UNFINISHED** – Out of the Depths is written by Dr. Michael J. Chan and will be our focus for Wednesdays in Lent on the book of Jonah. He says, "Jonah walks a Lenten path. Like all human beings, he is prone to wander from his Creator in favor of determining the shape and scope of his own future. This temptation is especially powerful when God calls us to take on risky ventures, travel to strange places, and confront things inside of us that prevent us from seeing one another as God does. God meets us in those liminal, Lent-like spaces when we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy." Join us as we explore the following themes:

March 29 Matthew 8:23-27 (cf. Mark 4:34-41; Luke 8:22-25);  
Jesus, a New Jonah

**UNFINISHED Digital Devotions** are also available on our church website, through links in the weekly e-news or use the QR code here. There are a few options that you might find helpful:



- Weekly Wednesday Jonah – Children and Family Ideas
- Weekly Sunday Lectionary – Children and Family Ideas
- Near and Now Weekly Bible Study
- Daily Unfinished Devotional
- Weekly Vocare Guided Meditations and Videos

You won't want to miss the chance to honor the space between no longer and not yet!"

### Wednesdays in Lent

**Meals Served 11:00 AM – Noon & 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

**Worship—12:15 & 6:30 PM**

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert. Meals are free will offering. Please remember that there is **No Parking** in the Methodist parking lot to the north of our handicapped entrance on Wednesdays - or any week day - from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. You may park on Farnam Street at the meters for 25 cents per hour, in our parking lot on the west side of the building, or in the deFreese parking lot.

### Menu for March 29

Beef Barley or Ham and Bean Soup  
Assorted Wraps  
Dessert

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

### Holy Week & Easter Worship Assistants are Needed

We are in need Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers for Holy Week and Easter - and Sundays in general. If you are already serving as Communion Assistants and/or Lectors, please sign up on SignUp Genius or call the church office (402-341-7761) to sign up according to your availability. If you are willing to serve as an Usher, please contact Jim (jim@kmlchurch.org or call the church office. If you aren't currently serving as a Communion Assistant or Lector but would like to, please contact the church office to sign up or to get a link to the SignUp Genius Page. We will be glad to walk you through a short training session before you serve. Thanks in advance for serving in this way.

### Mission Investment Fund & Baptismal Ministry

A new Baptismal Ministry is happening through the gift of the late Rev. Robert Johnson and Mary Ann Johnson. Each child that is baptized at KMLC will be receiving a \$100.00 Savings Account through the Mission Investment Fund. This account will be established by the church and then handed over to their parents with the hopes that investing in their child's future is just one more way the church can show support and care beyond our spiritual offerings.

### Kountze Pantry

Thanks to all of you who helped us save receipts from Family Fare! The good news is we raised thousands of dollars. The bad news is the program has ended, so we no longer need the receipts. The Kountze Food Pantry is in the process of partnering with Family Fare in a new reward program. We are still collecting hygiene products for our guests, especially feminine supplies and shaving razors and cream. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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



Remember that no Kountze Memorial staff member will ever email or text you asking you to send money or gift cards, to perform some kind of task, for a favor, or to respond immediately.

Please delete such emails or texts and don't reply back or click on any links contained within the message. Never send money or gift cards or provide checking account or credit card information in response to any emailed solicitation without checking with a trusted source. More info regarding spam messages and how to report them can be found at [https://seiasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm\\_uploads/2020/12/ScamFlyer\\_Final.pdf](https://seiasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/12/ScamFlyer_Final.pdf)



## Holy Week at Kountze

### Palm Sunday, April 1 & 2

9 & 11 AM Eucharist with Palm Procession and Passion Reading

### Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 3, 4, and 5

12:15 PM Eucharist in Rotunda Chapel

### Maundy Thursday, April 6

11:00 AM Lunch (free-will offering)  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:30 PM Dinner (free-will offering)  
6:30 PM Worship & First Communion (Nursery care is available for children ages infant – 4 years in the nursery located near the Fellowship Hall. Please ask an Usher for directions.)

### Good Friday, April 7

12:00-3:00 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service: Seven Words from the Cross with Guest Speakers, String Quartet and Kountze Choir  
6:30 PM Tenebrae (Veneration of the Cross and Service of Shadows) (Nursery)

### Holy Saturday, April 8

10:00 PM Easter Vigil (Fire, Word, Water, Eucharist)  
(There will be no 5:00 PM Saturday service)

### Easter Sunday, April 9

7:30 AM Festival of the Resurrection in the Link  
8 - 10:45 AM Easter Breakfast  
9 & 11 AM Festival of the Resurrection  
10:00 AMish Easter Egg Hunt in the Green Space after the 9:00 AM service

## Attendance & Giving

**Saturday:** 31

**Sunday: 9:00:** 142 **11:00:** 88

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 24 **6:30:** 60

**Total:** 345

**Streaming:** 72 (inc. Wednesday)

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1385 (inc. 319 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 10

**Offering:**

\$9,484.65 (Regular) \$6,070.63 (Specials)

\$7,12.50 (Debt Reduction)

## *Jesus weeps with us.*

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

Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
Tuesday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Hosea 11:1-9	God's love for God's people
Thursday	Isaiah 53:4-12	The suffering servant
Friday	Luke 19:41-44	Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trusting in the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem



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*Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him [Lazarus]!"* **John 11:35-36 (NRSV)**

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

Loving God, we are in awe of how you grieve with us and conquer sin and death so that we may experience eternal life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for coming to us in Jesus, just as your constant love comes to us through this gift of food that gives us life each day. Amen.

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

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and joy through Christ our Lord.

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

- How do you find comfort when something bad happens?
- Jesus cried over Lazarus' death. How does crying help in times of sadness?

*Read:* John 11:1-45.

Jesus' divinity and humanity are on full display in this story. Jesus knows that Lazarus has died. Jesus goes to Bethany to bring Lazarus back to life. Jesus announces, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die"* (vv. 25-26). Jesus has power over life and death yet he weeps. Jesus, fully divine is also fully human, and he experiences the pain and sadness of the final enemy, death itself. The Apostle Paul writes of flesh and Spirit in Romans 8. For Paul, the flesh is not an earthly matter. Flesh is the power of sin that turns us away from God. The Spirit brings life born of God. Both Paul and Jesus recognize the Holy Spirit and the power of sin and death that remain in our world and in our lives. Sin is not just a personal weakness. It is a power that needs to be vanquished. Because of this destructive power, Jesus weeps. Christ's victory over sin and death is our victory. Christ shares our tears over death, the final enemy to be conquered.

*Discuss:* How does believing in Jesus give you comfort during times of death and loss?

*Pray:* **Compassionate God, we give you our thanks and praise that in Jesus Christ you take on our humanity, weep with us, and give us hope by conquering sin and death. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you comfort someone who is going through tough times?

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week decide where you will donate the money from the Almsgiving Box you have had in your home during Lent. Deliver the money to where it can be distributed to those in need.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45