

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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April 16, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY in EASTER
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.
- C** Amen.

- P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

- C** Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.
- P** Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

ELW 363 v. 1, 2, 4, 5



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:
 who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
 Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

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.

G And also with you.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty and eternal God,
- ☑ **the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16 (*read responsively*)

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last

time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

📖 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.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

🙏 Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my

side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either 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

Vicar Olson Kopp

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Risen Christ”

ELW 390 tune of ELW 629

- 1 The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.**
- 2 The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.**
- 3 The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand
the bread for those who fail to understand,
reveals himself, despite their ling’ring tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.**
- 4 May we, Christ’s body, walk and serve and stand
with those oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 9:00 AM

Sheyenne Sue Glasgow

Daughter of Kyra Peterson

Baptized on June 7, 2009 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Brenda Losole, Charles Herron Sr.,

Melinda Mattson, Mickey Hinkle, Naomi Allen

Bible Verse: Psalm 37:1-9

¹*Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.*

²*For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.*

³*Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.*

⁴*Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.*

⁵*Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.*

⁶*The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light*

and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

⁷*Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.*

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸*Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.*

⁹*For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land."*

Lillian Katherine Kassal

Daughter of Kristin Boe and Jeff Kassal

Baptized on August 23, 2009 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Kara DiLorenzo and Kelsey Ferry

Bible Verse: 1 John 4:18

" There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear:

for fear has to do with punishment and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love."

Braxton Robert Rees

Son of Eric and Toby Rees

Baptized on October 10, 2009 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Christian and Breann Owen

P Merciful God,

G we thank you for these brothers and sisters, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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.**

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
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?

Each confirmand responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

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

P We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

(sit)

P Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Response from confirmand: Amen.

(stand)

P Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

Thanksgiving: for the affirmation of baptism of Sheyenne Glasgow, Lillian Kassal, Braxton Rees; for the baptism of Greyson Joseph, son of Courtney & Cory Bailes (4/16/2023)

Prayers This Week: Myrna Carter, Ellie Carlson, Mary Ann Johnson, Dee Dee Lundahl, Paul Morse, brother of Ralph Morse

On-going Care: 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, Deb 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

9:00 AM	<i>“I’m Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing”</i>	Traditional Kountze Children & Adult Choirs
11:00 AM	<i>“Rejoice He is Alive”</i>	Patti Drennan Kountze Adult Choir

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”

ELW 373 vs. 1, 4, 5



1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day!” All on earth with an - gels say;
2 Love’s re-deem-ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav’ns; and earth, re - ply.
Lo! The sun’s e - clipse is o’er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n!
Praise to thee by both be giv’n.
Thee we greet triumphant now:
hail, the resurrection, thou!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God,

C in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

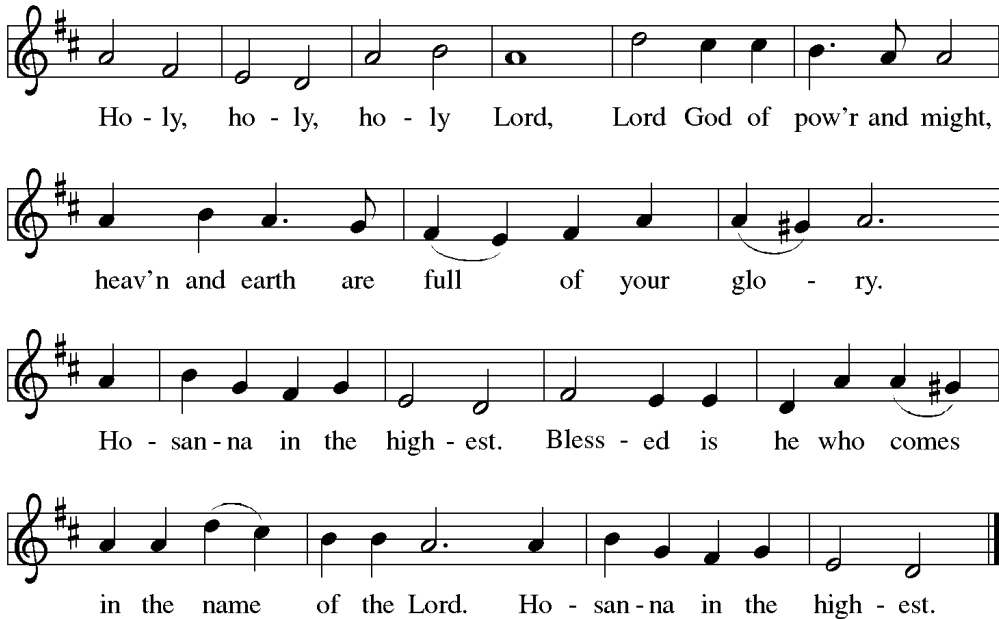
C We lift them to the Lord.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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 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



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

- P** Come and know Christ,
- C** broken and poured out for you.

(sit)

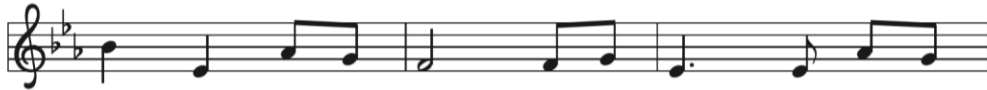
THE DISTRIBUTION

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 “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

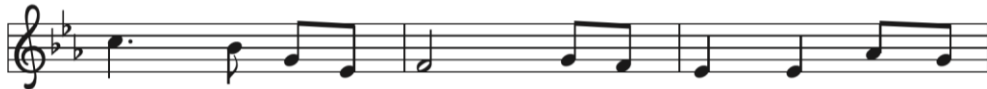


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: “I am with you; do not fear!”
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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- 1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Gracious God,

C in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live as a new creation.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praise”

ELW 535

*The choir sings the chorus once, then the congregation joins in singing the chorus and verses.
The hymn will be sing twice, acapella.*

Refrain — sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. *End*




1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

DISMISSAL

-  Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
-  Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Mark Jones, *organ*

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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

April 15 & 16, 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 worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Today at Kountze

Easter Lilies are given to the glory of God in memory of Gary Rodene by his wife, Nancy; in honor of loved ones by Joan Jacobson-Trotter; in memory of Rocco Fili given by Caleb Fili & family and by Sarah & Josh Kelloms; in memory of Dwaine Carlson and in honor of loved ones given by Ellie Carlson; in honor of family and friends by Sharon Miley; Gift of Love from Jenni Toeppen; in memory of Dean and Carl Sum by Paul Sum family

Confirmation Day

Sunday, April 16

9:00 AM Worship

The following students will be Affirming their baptismal faith: Sheyenne Glasgow, Lilly Kassal, and Braxton Rees will come to the front of the Nave during this worship for the Rite of Confirmation. A reception time will include breakfast, cake, and a time to talk with and encourage these youth in their faith. Gift bags for cards will be on the welcome desk for those who would want to express their joy as these youth take this important step in faith this day.

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.

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*

Sunday School & Youth Forum

This Sunday 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us in the Link for a time with the Life in Christ Circus. Clowns will share the Gospel of Christ through skits and laughter.

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Reception for Confirmands

Invitation to Sponsor our Summer Youth Trip:

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Five youth have said yes to this journey. We are asking you during the month of April if you would give a gift to sponsor our youth on this trip. Any gift is appreciated and for your generosity you will receive thank you notes from participants and recognition at our Summer

Youth Trip Sharing Event. We appreciate your consideration of how you might be a part of this ministry.

An Afternoon of Playing Cards with Friends

Interest has been expressed for a gathering of people on a weekday afternoon to play cards together.

If this is something that you would be interested in participating in, please sign up or call the church office and let us know what weekday afternoon is best for you.

Summer Confirmation Program

Did Confirmation pass you by, or do you want to continue learning? We'll have a program of 5 meetings this summer for those in 9th grade and above. This program is offered to those who have missed our Confirmation program or who might want a refresher. Class time and days will be established by those wanting to attend and will be posted in the May Good News. Please call the church office to sign up or email shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 16 Sunday

Easter 2

Confirmation Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

April 17 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

April 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

April 20 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

April 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 23 Sunday

Easter 3

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

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

10:15 PM New Member Class

12:15 PM Book Group @ Bookworm (note date change)

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

A Day Without Shoes

April 16—May 7

WELCA will begin collecting new or used shoes for the Stephen Center (even unusable shoes can be collected for recycling) as their April service project. Please don't bring shoes before April 16, but beginning that weekend, a box will be in the narthex for your shoe donations.

Explore! Day Retreat

Grades 1 - 6

Saturday, April 22, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The Springs at Carol Joy Holling Camp

27416 Ranch Road, Ashland

Cost is \$25 for youth, includes lunch

Register at <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

New Member Class

April 23 & 30

10:15 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please come to the New Member classes. Call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend. Please plan to attend both classes.

Omaha Young Adults Trivia

April 25

7:00 PM

LOCAL Patio and Kitchen at Village Pointe

Young Adults are welcome to join the Omaha Lutheran Young Adults for trivia night! Talk to Greta for more info: OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 27 (please note date change)

11:30 AM

(Rescheduled from our February snowstorm) Our speaker is from the Douglas County Historical Society, "'Omaha's AUTO -Biography'" is a look at our love affair with the motor car. From automobile production, to racing, to drive-in dining and movie theaters... we will hit all the stops." Also please note it will be the 4th Thursday just for the month of April.

God. Tacos. Legos.

A Lego Faith Formation Experience

Friday, May 5

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Grades 4 - 6

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St, Omaha.)

Cost: \$5 per Youth

Youth from across Omaha's Lutheran congregations will gather for fellowship, LEGOs and dinner! Friends are welcome! Register with Pastor Shari by Sunday, April 30, either in person, on sign-up sheet, or email at shari@kmlchurch.org Parents are welcome to stay for fellowship, a devotion, and tacos!

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 14

If you are a 2022/23 graduate, please let us know. We will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email shari@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you.

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, May 14

9:00 or 11:00 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Seniors, please submit to the above email, 5 to 7 photos to include in the video presentation that will be shown during this time. Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. A listing of graduates will be in the May Good News.

Compline

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Service of Ancient Chant and Motets

Sunday, May 21, 7:30 PM

Please join us for a special evening featuring the sacred service of Compline. Amidst the beauty of the candlelit sanctuary, the Schola Cantorum from Lincoln's First Plymouth Church will share a short service of meditative chants and hymns. The service of Compline has been sung for hundreds of years and offers singers and listeners a unique and special space for contemplation and communion with God.

KMLC Camp Week

Carol Joy Holling Camp

June 18 - 23

You can sign up for any week, but those who want to attend a week of camp with others from the church can be directed to this time. Due to funding set up through a gift for Christian Education, KMLC will pay for youth attending Carol Joy Holling Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org> and select the REGISTER. There is a three-step process of registering on Ultracamp, choosing a session, pay deposit and complete registration. On the third step select, "Pay items in full" and then "Pay by Check/Money Order". Then send a copy of this statement to shari@kmlchurch.org and we will take care of the rest. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, and register today!

NeLCM Golf Scramble

Friday, June 9

Holmes Golf Course in Lincoln

9:00 AM Start

Attention golfers and all campus ministry fans!! SAVE the DATE for our 2nd annual Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry four-person Golf Scramble. There will be golf, food, friends, and fun!!! Register at: nelcm.com/nelcm-golf-scramble-2023/

House Painting for Low Income Seniors

Are you a low-income Senior Homeowner or do you know one? They can get a free fresh coat of exterior paint on their homes on Saturday, August 19. For more information call Leslie at Project Houseworks at 402-965-9201.

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 25

Sunday: 9:00: 332 11:00: 190

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 562

Streaming: 102 (inc. Holy Week)

Pantry Guests Served: 191 (inc. 63 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: (Closed—Holy Wk)

Offering:

\$37,863.82 (Regular)

\$17,985.96 (Specials)

\$17,68.56 (Debt Reduction)

The resurrected Jesus gives us peace.

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Peter addresses the crowd
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Wednesday	2 Thessalonians 3:16-17	Final Greetings
Thursday	Psalm 29	The voice of God in a storm
Friday	John 14:25-31	Promise of the Holy Spirit
Saturday	Psalm 16	Song of trust in God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus



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Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, give us your peace and courage to live each day with hope and confidence through Christ Jesus our Risen Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table Lord, be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3)

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

- What helps you stay calm when you experience anxious moments?
- When was a time you were afraid and your faith helped you feel at peace?

Read: John 20:19-31.

Three times in this reading Jesus says, "*Peace be with you.*" It's the message of our resurrected Lord to disciples who are meeting behind locked doors in fear. Fear, anxiety, and caution are part of daily life then and now. After washing the disciple's feet and the last supper (John 13), Jesus preaches to his disciples (John 14-16) and then offers a prayer that continues his deep-seated concern for his followers (John 17). His message is expressed in the language of John 14:1:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." At the heart of Jesus' message is trust and confidence in God's power for new life that is filled with peace. Christ's peace does not take us out of the world of fear and suffering but leads us with hope in Christ's victory from the cross that promises life, not death, hope, not despair.

Discuss: How can Jesus' words, "*Peace be with you*" comfort you when you are facing fears?

Pray: **God of eternal comfort and hope, give us peace to face others and the world with love and faith through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you extend to others Jesus' words "Peace be with you"?

The words in the Gospel of John are "*written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name*" (John 20:31). The Easter season is a period of fifty days, lasting from Easter Sunday through Pentecost. Make a bookmark; write the words, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!" on it, and decorate it. Use the bookmark in your Bible as you read through the Gospel of John during the Easter season. When you finish each reading, be reminded of our Savior, Jesus Christ's resurrection by saying: "**Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**"

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35