

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

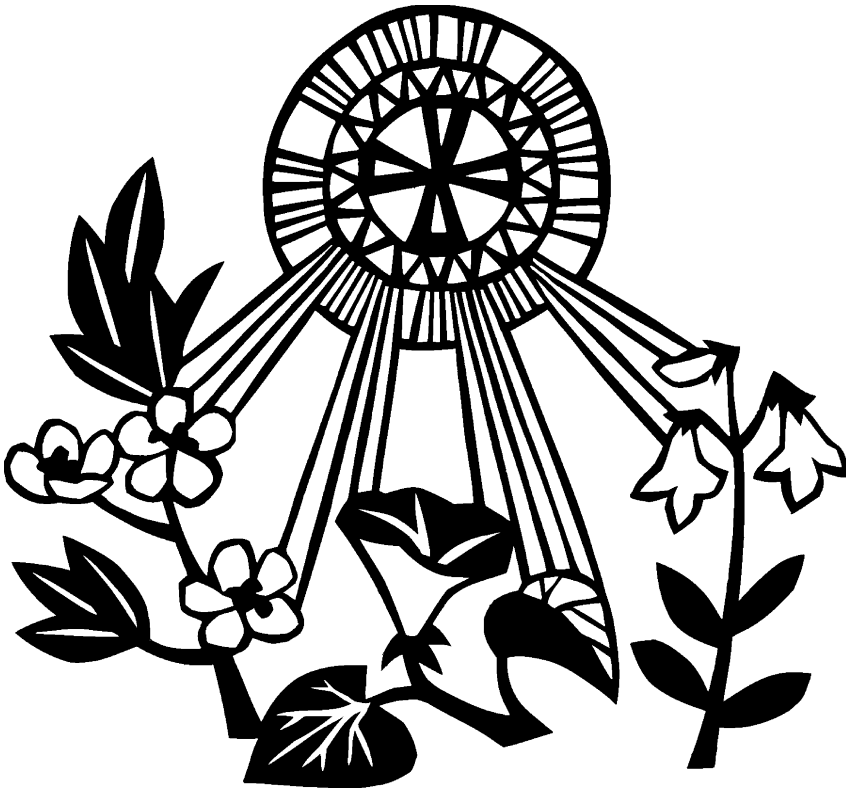
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

May 14, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY in EASTER
GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY



Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.</p> | <p>3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.</p> |
| <p>2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.</p> | <p>4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!</p> |

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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.

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.



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.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty and ever-living God,
C you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20 (read responsively)

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;**

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings**

and will pay you my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;**

I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

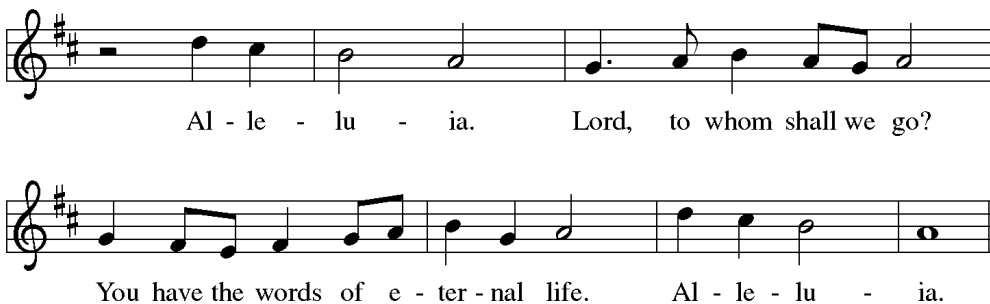
Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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.

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises”

ELW 535

sung without repeats

Refrain

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

1 Christ the Lord to us said:

**I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread,
give to all who thirst and hunger.**

Refrain

**2 Now he sends us all out,
strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt.**

Tell to all the joyful gospel. *Refrain*

Text: South African, tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
English text © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

(sit)

CELEBRATION OF 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- Ⓛ Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their faith journey. As the names of our 2023 graduates are read, we ask that they, who are present, along with their parents and families, please come forward:

*Arianna Ascani
Braden Bonacci
Filip Boskamp*

*Sofia Di Lorenzo
John Groenjes
Dannika Rees*

- Ⓟ Parents, in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. In their baptisms, sacred promises were made. As parents of these young men and women, it was part of your calling to see that those sacred promises were kept:

To live with them among God's faithful people
To bring them to the word of God and the Holy Supper
To nurture them in faith and prayer

You have fulfilled those promises. We now ask you to covenant with this congregation to continue to support the faith journey of these young men and women. As the spirit gives you ability, do you intend to support and routinely lift your children up in prayer? If so answer, *"I do and I ask God to help and guide me."*

Parents: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

- Ⓟ Congregation, do you promise to support and encourage these parents in the keeping of these sacred promises? If so, answer, *"We will with God's help and guidance."*

☛ We will with God's help and guidance.

- Ⓟ Graduates, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
To live among God's faithful people,
To come to the word of God and the Holy Supper,
To strive to grow in faith and prayer, so that, you might
trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace in all the world
If so, answer, *"I do and I ask God to help and guide me."*

Graduates: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

PRAYER (graduates kneel)

- P** Let us pray: Dear God of creation, we ask for your blessing on these young people as they enter a new period in their lives of faith. Bless them and grant them your gifts: confirm their faith, guide their lives, give them strength in serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to eternal life. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen**

PRESENTATION OF QUILTS

- P** The members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church present you, our high school graduates, with a symbol of the love we have for you. Each stitch of these quilts represents the love that God has given us to share with one another. At this time, we ask your parents to take these quilts and place them around you. They are symbolic of our congregation's commitment to support and equip you in carrying out the promises made in baptism.

Parents wrap the quilts around their children's shoulders

PRAYER

- P** Let us pray: We come this day before you, O God,
- C** **to bless you and thank you for the gifts you give us. You have given our lives meaning and calling. Through you, we receive the gifts of love, joy, and forgiveness. We pray that these quilts will be a reminder of the warmth of family, this faith community, and of your never-failing love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

(graduates stand and face the congregation)

- P** I present to the congregation, our 2023 high school graduates and their families.
- P** Depart in Christ's peace.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **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)

Prayers this week: David Chand, Dee-Dee Lundahl, Linda Peltz, Jim Tunzer

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* – 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, Colombia; 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.

C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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

“If Ye Love Me”

by Thomas Tallis

(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!

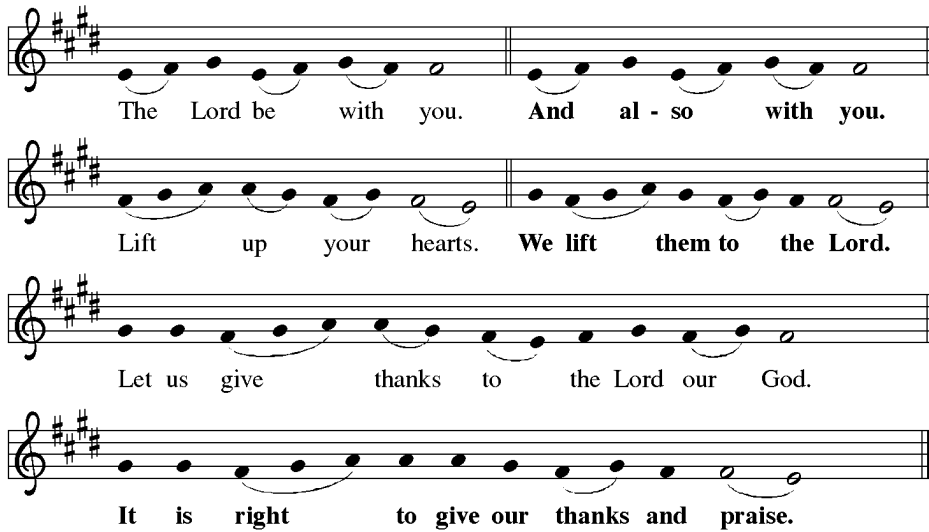
6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love!

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Generous God,

☑ 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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

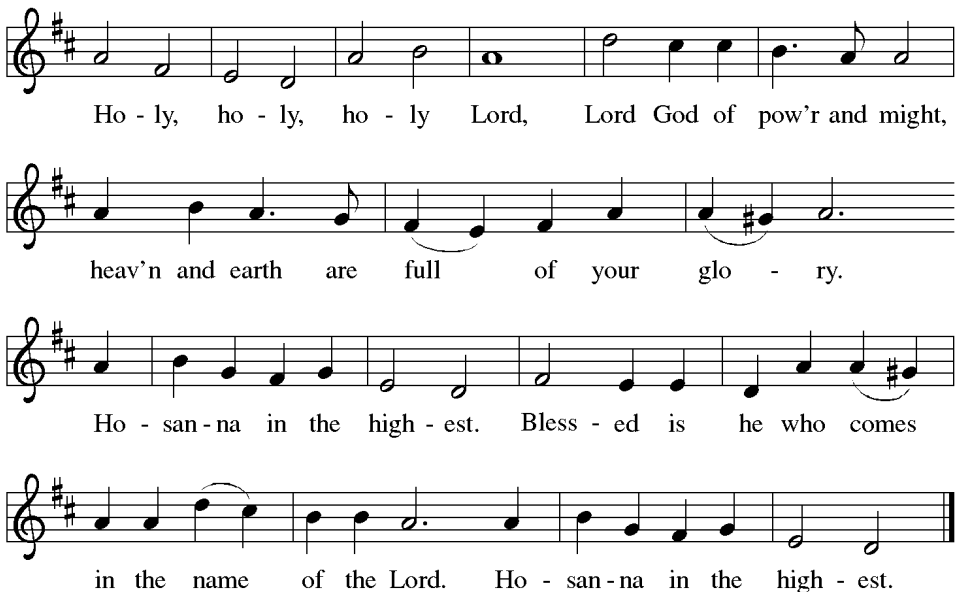
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has a double bar line in the middle. The second staff also has a double bar line in the middle. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

- 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.

The image shows four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has a double bar line in the middle. The second staff also has a double bar line in the middle. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

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

-  Come and know Christ,
-  broken and poured out for us.

(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.

**1 Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine;
breath of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

**2 Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine;
kindle ev'ry high desire;
purge me with your holy fire.**

**3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
fortify this will of mine;
by your will I strongly live,
bravely bear, and nobly strive.**

**4 Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine;
speak to calm this tossing sea,
stayed in your tranquility.**

**5 Holy Spirit, right divine,
king within my conscience reign;
be my guide, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.**

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
 2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
 3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
 learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
 car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

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(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Gracious God,

G 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

"Go to the World"

ACS 991



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP AT KOUNTZE

Sunday, May 14

- 9 & 11 AM High School Graduate Quilt Blessing (during worship services)
- 10:10 AM Fellowship Recognition of Graduates

Saturday, May 20

- 6:00 PM Farewell Potluck for Vicar Gretchen (after 5 pm worship service)

Sunday, May 21

- Vicar Gretchen's Farewell Sunday
- 10:10 AM Fellowship Reception for Vicar Gretchen's Farewell

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

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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 13 & 14, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of John & Lynn Schneiderman's 35th wedding anniversary; in honor of Dannika Rees Graduation

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Bob & Pam Johnson in honor of their 48th wedding anniversary.

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 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs.) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Sunday School Focus

The Sunday School curriculum after Easter has been focusing on The Road to Emmaus. To end the Sunday School year, the children have been and will continue to study this lesson through a Rotation curriculum. This way of presenting a lesson involves teaching the same lesson through several different classes that include the mission of the scripture, cooking, art, and science. The Sunday School year will conclude on May 21 with a lesson taught through games.

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*

Youth Forum

Grades 7 - 12

Sundays from 10:10 AM

Join us in the Youth Room for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Recognition of Graduates

Next week: Farewell to Vicar Gretchen in the Fellowship Hall

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10

-10:50 AM. **This week:** Recognition of Graduates

Next week: Farewell to Vicar Gretchen in the Fellowship Hall

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 14

This morning we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. A list of the 2023 graduates can be found on an insert in your bulletin.

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 in the Fellowship Hall. Along with breakfast, cake will be served.

May Sunday School Service Project

In reading of The Road to Emmaus, it reads, "When he was at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them." Luke 30. To help reinforce this lesson, the Sunday School service project will be to gather and donate snacks for the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House at Children's Hospital. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Sunday School office before the end of the Sunday School year on May 21.

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.

Blindness Prevention Month

May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 14 Sunday

Easter 6

Mother's Day

Graduation Sunday

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

May 15 Monday

Good News Deadline

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

May 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

May 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 18 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

6:30 PM Ascension Day Liturgy at

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

May 19 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

May 20 Saturday

3:00 PM Murphy & Gifford Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

6:00 PM Farewell Potluck for Pr.

Gretchen

May 21 Sunday

Easter 7

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

7:30 PM Compliment Service

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch

Thursday, May 18

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

Join us for lunch and a brief program from Rhonda K. Vance APRN-NP with Methodist Health Clinic at Kountze Commons. She will give us a short update on their operations and impacts to the community.

Ascension Day Liturgy

Thursday, May 18

6:30 PM

Held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (113 N 18th St.)

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, Trinity will be hosting the liturgy. Bishop Scott Johnson will preach and Bishop Scott Barker will preside, with other clergy from Kountze Memorial and Trinity. Please mark your calendars

for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome.

Carol Joy Holling Work Day

Saturday, May 20, 2023

8:00 AM - Lunch

For more info and to sign up, go to

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day>

Sending of Vicar Gretchen (last Sunday with us is May 28)

- On Saturday, May 20, after the 5:00 PM Worship Service, we'll have a Farewell Potluck for Vicar Gretchen. Please bring a dish to share.
- On Sunday, May 21 during Fellowship, a time of gratefulness and thanksgiving, will be offered as we think back on the last nine months together, birthing this last requirement of the Seminary process before her graduation, approval, and ordination.

If you are so moved gifts and cards will be gathered, speeches will be shared, and much love expressed for the time we have journeyed together. In addition to breakfast, delicious treats will abound.

What is Discernment?

Grades 8—12

Sunday, May 21

6:30 PM

What is discernment? How do I make decisions about what I want to do with my life? Gather with area youth at Kountze Memorial Lutheran as Pr. Shari & Vicar Gretchen share some principles of discernment that can guide you in making all kinds of decisions. Have some time to reflect on the decisions you're facing. Talk with peers about their decisions and how discernment figures in. We'll close our time with the 7:30 PM Omaha-area Compline Worship together. Come check it out!

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.

Summer Confirmation

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. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at noon on the following Wednesdays:

- The Ten Commandments – May 31
- The Creeds – June 14
- The Lord's Prayer – June 28
- Worship/Sacraments July 19
- Discipleship—August 16

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, August 26. Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

Vacation Bible School

Welcomes all Superheros!

Held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St)

Sunday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 14

5:30 to 8:00 PM

We will be learning about Superheros of the Bible, how God provided for them, and how those heroes then furthered God's mission. We all know that Superheros are stronger in groups! We will be joining several other Omaha area churches for fun, fellowship, and learning together. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time. Please register here: <https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

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!



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 24

Sunday: 9:00: 169 11:00: 59

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 265

Streaming: 42

Pantry Guests Served: 970 (inc. 331 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 13

Offering:

\$20,258.54 (Regular)

\$7,220.02 (Specials)

\$619.89 (Debt Reduction)

Doing good through gentleness and reverence.

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22-26	Fruit of the Spirit
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 66:8-20	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples



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Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3:15b-16a (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to see the path to life and salvation in Christ's suffering and death and to see your chosen way to heal and make all things new. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food that we eat and your love that we receive, give us strength to care for others with gentleness and deep respect. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of truth guide you into all things wise and loving.

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

- What action do you take when you are angry at or disagree with someone?
- How do you think Jesus would respond if he had a strong difference of opinion with someone?

Read: 1 Peter 3:13-22.

Suffering happens. Life is sometimes painful. Followers of Jesus Christ can suffer *"for doing what is right"* (v. 14). Unfortunately, there are those who claim to follow Jesus and think that inflicting suffering is being a hero for "the truth." That's not the case for biblical truth and the way of Christ Jesus who *"suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous"* (v. 18). In being faithful to Christ and Christ's way of life, we are to be bold (a hero, one might say) and give *"an accounting for the hope that is in you"* (v. 15). However, this description that gives a defense of what a Christian may think and believe is not to be done with anger, threats, unkind acts, or any act of violence. A courageous disciple makes their defense *"with gentleness and reverence"* (v. 16). Christ's reign, unlike the powers of the present age, is built upon the power of self-giving love and service to others. It's the way of Jesus Christ, and it's the freeing power of the followers of Jesus Christ.

Discuss: How can being gentle and reverent show more courage than an act of violence?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see in Jesus Christ not only the way of salvation but the way of life that witnesses to Christ with gentleness and reverence. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you reach out to and serve alongside others who think differently than you?

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships —often in our own homes. In John 14:15-21, Jesus gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit. As you continue reading the Gospel of John during the Easter season, highlight this reading. Then take time to write a list of people with whom you have a personal, trusted relationship.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, send the Holy Spirit upon me so that I may grow in my faith and form life-giving relationships. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia! Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11