

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

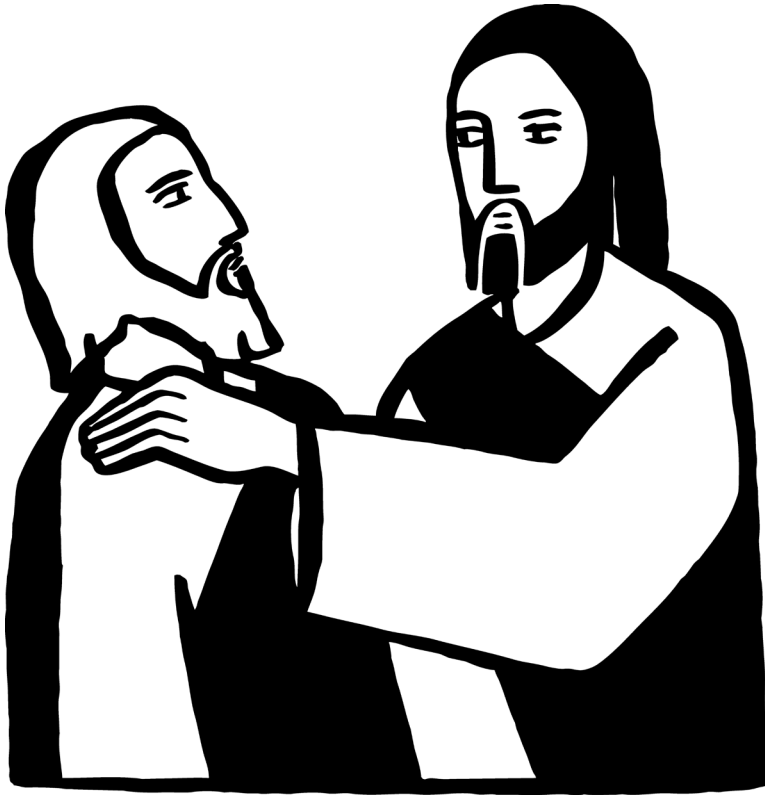
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
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August 27, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**



*In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.  
Merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.  
We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.  
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Righteous God,

**C** **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the  
courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant  
us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim  
the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 A mighty fortress is our God,<br/>a sword and shield victorious;<br/>he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod<br/>and wins salvation glorious.<br/>The old satanic foe<br/>has sworn to work us woe!<br/>With craft and dreadful might<br/>he arms himself to fight.<br/>On earth he has no equal.</b></p>         | <p><b>3 Though hordes of devils fill the land<br/>all threat'ning to devour us,<br/>we tremble not, unmoved we stand;<br/>they cannot overpow'r us.<br/>Let this world's tyrant rage;<br/>in battle we'll engage!<br/>His might is doomed to fail;<br/>God's judgment must prevail!<br/>One little word subdues him.</b></p>    |
| <p><b>2 No strength of ours can match his might!<br/>We would be lost, rejected.<br/>But now a champion comes to fight,<br/>whom God himself elected.<br/>You ask who this may be?<br/>The Lord of hosts is he!<br/>Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,<br/>God's only Son, adored.<br/>He holds the field victorious.</b></p> | <p><b>4 God's Word forever shall abide,<br/>no thanks to foes, who fear it;<br/>for God himself fights by our side<br/>with weapons of the Spirit.<br/>Were they to take our house,<br/>goods, honor, child, or spouse,<br/>through life be wrenched away,<br/>they cannot win the day.<br/>The kingdom's ours forever!</b></p> |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

## KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.
- P** For the reign of God, for peace throughout the world,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.
- P** For your people here, who have come to give you praise,  
and for the strength to live in your Word, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.



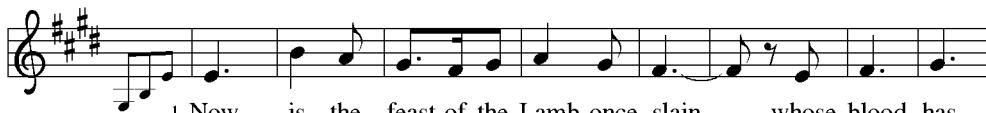
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



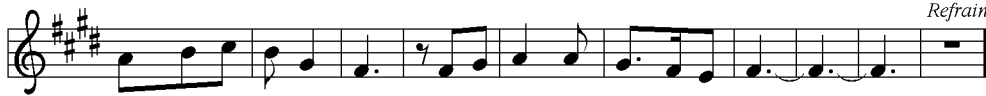
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God,

**C** with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

*(sit)*

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

**L**isten to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup>For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 138** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup>**The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me;  
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 12:1-8**

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

**I** appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 16:13-20**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

**N**ow when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**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.

## SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*

ELW 597

1 **My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

*Refrain:*

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.**

2 **When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

3 **His oath, his covenant, his blood  
sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away,  
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain***

4 **When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
redeemed to stand before the throne!  
*Refrain***

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

## APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

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 (turn to page 13)



# AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 11:00 AM

## **Marah Ashlynn McDougal**

Daughter of Megan and TJ McDougal

Grandparents: June and Bruce Anderson

Baptized on June 27, 2009 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Maggie McDougal, Melissa McCain, Troy Anderson, Ryan Anderson

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 31:6

*“Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”*

### **Faith Statement:**

*I believe God to be an all knowing and powerful being that can guide and protect me throughout my life. I know that God is always looking over me and He will give me the strength to overcome obstacles that I might face. My faith will be a powerful foundation that can help me make the right decisions and stay on the right path. I can find hope and reassurance in the fact that God has a plan for me and that whatever challenges I might face are all a part of my faith journey and will ultimately strengthen me in my beliefs and relationship with the Lord.*

*I feel that I am currently still learning and growing in my faith. I have learned a lot through the confirmation sessions and I've met people there that have really helped me take a deeper look into my faith and what it means to me. There is still a lot for me to learn and explore, but I have a strong foundation and I have great role models around me to support my faith journey. I hope to continue to strengthen my faith and turn to my faith to guide me through my senior high years. Through studying the Word of the Lord and taking a deeper look into the 10 commandments, I feel that I have found morals to live my life by and guide me through hard times. I look forward to continuing to learn about myself through my faith and deepening my relationship with God.*

*The Bible Verse that I chose was Deuteronomy 31:6 which says, “Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.” This verse resonated with me because I think it is comforting to know that God will always be with me through the highs and the lows and I will never be alone. The verse encourages and reminds me to be strong and brave because God will always be there to support and protect me.*

# **Tye McDougal**

Son of Megan and TJ McDougal

Grandparents: June and Bruce Anderson

Baptized on August 25, 2007 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: John McDougal, Rebecca Warren

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

## **Faith Statement:**

*I believe God to be the creator of all things. He is almighty and all powerful. God is the embodiment of Righteousness and He is merciful, which is why He sent Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. I believe God to be my Savior and He deserves to be worshiped. I have faith that God has a plan and journey for me and all those in my life, and I have complete trust in Him.*

*I'm very new to this faith journey, but I look forward to continuing to dive deeper into my faith and strengthening my connection with God. I built a strong base for my faith through the confirmation classes and found a lot of meaning and purpose in many of the deep discussions we had. I know I have a long way to go in my faith journey, but in the future I envision myself to be a very consistent and active member in my church community. I hope to follow the Lord's example and live a life that is aligned with His Commandments. I look forward to confirming my faith as that is another step toward strengthening my relationship with the Lord.*

*The verse that I really connected with was Philippians 4:13 which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This verse really embodies having a personal relationship with God by acknowledging that He is always with me throughout my life, no matter where I am or what I am doing. It also demonstrates the power of God because it shows that everything I do and everything I am comes from His strength. Another way this verse connects to me on a deeper level is that it aligns with my birthday which is April 13 (4-13). This verse was also a verse that was heavily cited by one of my favorite sports athletes (Tim Tebow) who was very open and strong in his faith.*

## Mia Valquier

Daughter of Terri Valquier, Leon Valquier, Shelia Valquier

Grandparents: Margarita and Jorge Valquier, Debra Bowen Winter and Robert Winter,  
April and Jerry McDonald

Baptized on Nov. 19, 2005 at Cristo Rey, Omaha

Baptismal Sponsors: Tamar Pittman and Jorge Valquier

Bible Verse: Proverbs 3: 5,6

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

### Faith Statement:

*I feel called to the church community because of my love for God and my neighbors. I feel being involved in the church and learning the Word of the Lord has given me many opportunities to notice and feel God all around me, and this has helped me grow my faith. I hope to continue to grow my understanding and love for God and hope to be an influence and/or role model of faith to the younger kids in the church. I am grateful for the gift of faith, for the mentors who have walked alongside me, and for the opportunities to deepen my understanding.*

**P** Merciful God,

**C** **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.**

## 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:** Kathy Englert

**Thanksgiving:** for the affirmation of baptism of Marah McDougal, Tye McDougal, and Mia Valquier (8/27/2023)

**On-going Care:** Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Steve Dragon, Mike Edris, Linda Filbrant, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Jim Hopkins, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Linda Peltz, 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

## 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

*“My Hope Is Built”*

W. Bradbury/Tom Trenney  
Janet Campbell, soloist

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
**C** you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. 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

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

ACS 1089



San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.  
your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . You are ho - ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . .  
. . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to e - res, oh Dios.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional  
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress



# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## 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

*Congregation:* Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
\* you pour your Holy Spirit on

*Congregation:* world:  
us: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

*Congregation:* mer - cy on us. *Congregation or Assistant:* Lamb of God, you

*Congregation:* take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come, eat what is good.  
**G** All people are called to Christ's table.

(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

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

**ELW 359**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 <b>Where charity and love prevail,<br/>there God is ever found;<br/>brought here together by Christ's love,<br/>by love we thus are bound.</b></p> <p>2 <b>With grateful joy and holy fear,<br/>God's charity we learn;<br/>let us with heart and mind and soul<br/>now love God in return.</b></p> | <p>3 <b>Let us recall that in our midst<br/>dwells Christ, God's holy Son;<br/>as members of each body joined,<br/>in him we are made one.</b></p> <p>4 <b>Let strife among us be unknown;<br/>let all contentions cease.<br/>Be God's the glory that we seek;<br/>be his our only peace.</b></p> |
| <p>5 <b>Let us forgive each other's faults<br/>as we our own confess,<br/>that we may love each other well<br/>in Christian gentleness.</b></p>  |   |

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.  
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|---|---|
| <b>1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;<br/>our hearts in true devotion bow.<br/>Your Spirit send with light divine,<br/>and let your truth within us shine.</b>                | <b>3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry,<br/>"O holy, holy Lord Most High!"<br/>And in the light of that blest place<br/>we then shall see you face to face.</b> |
| <b>2 Unseal our lips to sing your praise<br/>in endless hymns through all our days;<br/>increase our faith and light our minds;<br/>and set us free from doubt that blinds.</b> | <b>4 All glory to the Father, Son,<br/>and Holy Spirit, Three in One!<br/>To you, O blessed Trinity,<br/>be praise throughout eternity!</b>                         |

Text: attr. Wilhelm II, 1598-1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

*(stand)*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- ☞** We thank you, generous God,  
**☞** for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- P** The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.
- G** Amen.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“You Are the Way”*

ELW 758

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 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.</b></p> <p><b>2 You are the truth; your word alone<br/>true wisdom can impart;<br/>you only can inform the mind<br/>and purify the heart.</b></p> | <p><b>3 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.</b></p> <p><b>4 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.</b></p> |
|--|---|

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

## DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Share the harvest.
- G** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



### KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Anthony Bonacci	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**

**August 26 & 27 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.*

### **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 Memorial**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of our son, Evan Michael Hardy, given by Mom & Dad (Alex & Karen); given by Albert & Ilsa Grage in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; given by Dan & Karen Wolf in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God in gratitude of Pastor Shari Duminy and Pastor Kathy Gerking (Saint Timothy's) for arranging and managing the travels and stay at Holden Village in July

### **Kountze Café**

**Sundays, 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.

### **Adult Forum**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Confirmation Reception & Holden Trip Sharing. On the cake table there will be bags for those being confirmed if you'd like to bring cards for them. If you forget, cards to write on will be available on the Welcome Desk. **Next week:** History and Images of Our Windows, Bruce Nissen and Judy Boltz

### **Summer Affirmation of Faith**

**Sunday, August 27**

**11:00 AM**

Youth affirming their faith are: Marah McDougal, Tye McDougal, and Mia Valquier. They will be introduced during forum that day, along with Faith Sponsors: Darlene

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Anderson, Tom Jensen , and Mert Wieble, who attended class and shared their faith. You are encouraged to bring a card to share your congratulations with these youth, as they continue in the faith journey.

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### This Week at Kountze Memorial

**August 27 Sunday**

Pentecost 13  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
11:00 AM Affirmation of Faith

**August 28 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**August 29 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**August 30 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship

**August 31 Thursday**

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**September 1 Friday**

5:00 PM Pantry

**September 2 Saturday**

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

**September 3 Sunday**

Pentecost 14  
Senior Pastor Lucy Wynard's first  
Sunday at KMLC  
Homebound Communion  
10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

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### For Your Calendar/News & Notes

**Share Your Gifts During Faith Formation Hour**

If you are interested in supporting the youth of Kountze Memorial by leading a class, please contact Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org). All lessons are scripted and supplies provided. Teachers lead on a rotation schedule, allowing for weeks off. Be the difference in our youngest member's relationship with God and give of your time and talents.

**Help Connect Students to Campus Ministry!**

On college campuses across Nebraska and beyond, you can help connect students to our Lutheran Campus Ministries! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry has a contact and referral page: <https://nelcm.com/refer-a-student/> Please take a moment to help invite those you know to Christ! Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry locations include: Chadron State College, Creighton, UNK, UNL, SECC/Beatrice, Peru State, UNO, and Wayne State College. For more information or to make a gift of support, go to: [www.nelcm.com](http://www.nelcm.com).

**Confirmation Orientation and OSJ Training  
Grades 7 & 8**

**Wednesday, August 30**

**6:00 PM**

We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge for a meal and orientation for the Confirmation Learning year. Then we will go to the Nave for OSJ training with Robin and Jeff Perkins. Please let Pastor Shari know that you will be attending.

**Adult Choir**

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praises to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The adult choir will have its First meeting/rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 10. If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

**Dinners for 8****Sign-up by Sunday, September 3**

If you would like to get to know more church members, this is a great opportunity. You will meet for a meal one time each month in September, October, and November. The dinner can be hosted in homes or church, potluck style or out at a restaurant. You get to decide. Please sign up by September 3. We will inform you of your groups by September 6.

**Rally Sunday****Sunday, September 10**

All youth are invited to participate in the celebration of praise for both the rededication of the stained-glass windows (see Stained-Glass Window Rededication and Celebration announcement) and the upcoming year of Faith Formation which begins Sunday, September 17.

**You are Invited to Register Today to Attend  
Tri-Faith 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual United We Walk  
Sunday, September 10  
3:00—6:00 PM**

Alongside the walk, they will host inclusive-centric programming to make everyone feel welcome, activities to build a sense of belonging, a community fair, an immersive youth art project, entertainment, food trucks, and open houses of the four Tri-Faith buildings. (The Tri-Faith Commons and the 3 faith partners: Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and the American Muslim Institute). Join your pastors for this day of learning and celebration. For more information, please visit: <https://www.trifaith.org/www-2023>. If you'd like to help, sign up at: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4a622a2f9c25-united1#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4a622a2f9c25-united1#/)/

**Children's Choir**

**From: Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director  
Beginning Sunday, September 17  
9:15 AM (following 9 AM Children's Blessing)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Music Room**

**Grades K-6 - Choir**

**Grades 7-8 - Director Assistants**

Barb Carlsen is excited to have another opportunity to work with your talented children this year. She has 35 years of experience as a music teacher and enjoys working with young people. All children in grades K-5 are encouraged to sing in our Children's Choir. Students in grades 6-8 who would like to be involved may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help the director lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Barb in the church office at 402-341-7761.

**Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
Begins Sunday, September 17  
Sundays, 10:10 AM**

We will be learning about Jesus calling the disciples to follow him and do God's work. Through six rotation lessons in art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions, the students will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others. Jesus' choice of followers surprised some people, but Jesus was showing that anyone could follow him and do God's work. That includes the youngest members of Kountze!

Register online using the link below.

<https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/FaithFormation>

**The Camp Classic Tournament  
Friday, September 22  
Ashland Golf Club**

Four-person scramble, noon: shotgun start, teams & individuals welcome. Info and registration form can be found at <https://www.nlom.org/golf>

**Kountze Food Pantry**

The Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toilet tissue for our guests. Even though we only give out 1 roll per person, on request only, we go through a great deal. We appreciate any contributions you can make. We are desperately in need of Monday morning volunteers to carry groceries to the vehicles of our guests. There are only a few people who are able to do this vital service and they could really use a break! If you could help all or any part of the hours between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, please sign up at the link below or contact Susie Henry at [susannfrances@kmlchurch.org](mailto:susannfrances@kmlchurch.org)  
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

**Stained-Glass Window  
Rededication Celebration  
Sunday, September 10**

We hope you'll join the celebration of the rededication of our stained-glass windows. There will be lots of activities that day including organ, brass, and choir during both Sunday Worship services. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this special service!

If you would like to donate toward the cost of the celebration, please put "Window Celebration" on the memo line of your check, online giving, or on the pew envelope. Thanks.

**Before September 10**

- Watch your mailbox for a postcard with information on events of the day as well as some other events happening this fall.
- Pick up a yard sign to let your neighbors know about our celebration. The signs are available at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall.

**Pick up:**

- A yard sign to place in your yard
- Pre-ordered T-shirts
- Your window decal
- KMLC stained-glass window perpetual calendar—\$10

**On September 10:**

- Events for children during the Faith Formation Hour
- Coloring books for the children
- Cake
- Special KMLC ice cream from eCreamery. all at no cost
- Stained-glass window walk

**Attendance & Giving**

**Saturday:** 35

**Sunday: 9:00:** 148 **11:00:** 63

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 8

**Total:** 254

**Streaming:** 36

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1,161 (inc. 369 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 19

**Offering:**

\$16,982.65 (Regular) \$2,581.41 (Specials)

\$1,937.50 (Debt Reduction)



## Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ
Monday	Isaiah 51:1-6	Blessings for God's people
Tuesday	Romans 12:1-8	Christ brings new life
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:13-25	A call to holy living
Thursday	Exodus 20:1-6	You shall have no other gods
Friday	Genesis 35:1-15	Jacob returns to Bethel
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise God with all your heart
Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow



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*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven." **Matthew 16:16-17 (NRSV)***

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for being our sure foundation, our rock on which we stand secure through Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty and Living God, we thank you for this food that gives us strength to shout out our praise to you for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you joy and gladness now and always.

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

- A false god is anything that we put our trust in instead of putting our trust in Jesus Christ. What are some false gods that people turn to today?
- How is putting our trust in Jesus Christ different from following false gods?

*Read:* Matthew 16:13-20.

Caesarea Philippi was a place for the ancient people to gather and worship many gods. Those gods were understood to have powers that controlled people's lives, often arbitrarily. Instead of such instability, the disciples were there to witness to Jesus' life that heals, forgives, and teaches us of the God of steadfast love and faithfulness (Psalm 138:2). Peter confesses what only God can reveal: Jesus is the Messiah (another word for Christ) and the Son of a living—therefore real—God! In Romans 12:2 the Apostle Paul tells us not to be conformed to the world that is filled with false gods (powers), destructive passions, and self-love instead of love for others. This non-conformity that Jesus brings is a challenge to our everyday thinking. No wonder Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone about him. It will take time for them—and us—to wrap heads and hearts around worshiping Jesus as Lord instead of worshiping a nation, ethnicity, bank account or any other false god.

*Discuss:* What is it in your life that gets in the way of confessing Jesus as the Messiah?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, your ways are not our ways; give us hearts and minds to grasp that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God for the sake of the world you love. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others instead of serving your own interests this week?

Peter confessed his faith by stating that Jesus is the Son of the living God. Because of this confession, Jesus called him the "rock" upon which he would build his church (Matthew 16:18). Place a rock in your living space or in a garden to remember the confession of Peter and the church throughout the centuries. Write or paint the words "Jesus is the Son of God" on the rock.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28