

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
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www.kmlchurch.org

September 17, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C Amen.

- 1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.
- 3 There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

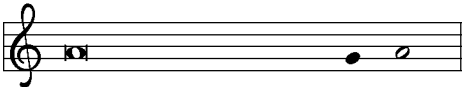
Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



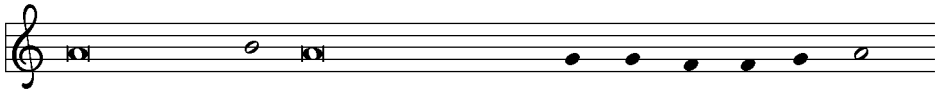
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

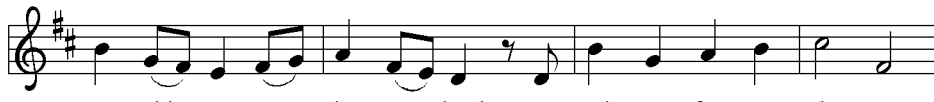
HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

❏ O Lord God, merciful judge,

❏ **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

❏ Word of God, Word of Life.

❏ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-13 *(read responsively)*

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

**³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;**

**⁴who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

**⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

**⁶O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

**⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.**

**⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

**⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

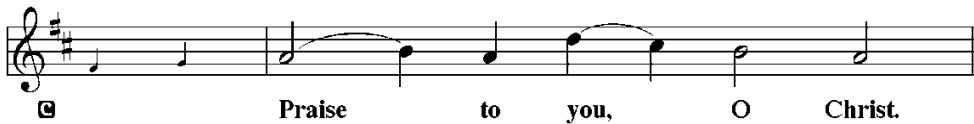
Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



(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.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"

ELW 603

Stanzas 1-4

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.</p> | <p>3 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.</p> |
| <p>2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.</p> | <p>4 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.</p> |

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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(sit)

INSTALATION OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

- ☐ The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Kate Jones (*Vice President*)
Tim Backora (*Treasurer*)
Madeline O'Kane (*Secretary*)
Tina Broekemeier

Anne Dey
Jerry Fischer
Steve Hinrichs
Michael Jensen

Lara McCormick
Ann Miller
Bruce Nissen
Jacob Rump

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

(stand)

P People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P I now declare you installed as officers / council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. Amen.

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** Merciful God,
 G receive our prayer.

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Mary Alice Jensen, aunt of Tom Jensen

Prayers This Week: Barb Andersen, Marge Bock, Martha Eckmann, Julie King, Gary Westerman

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Steve Dragon, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, 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: *Seminarists*— Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Be Joyful! Be Joyful!”

Eugene Butler

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679
Stanzas 1 & 3



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

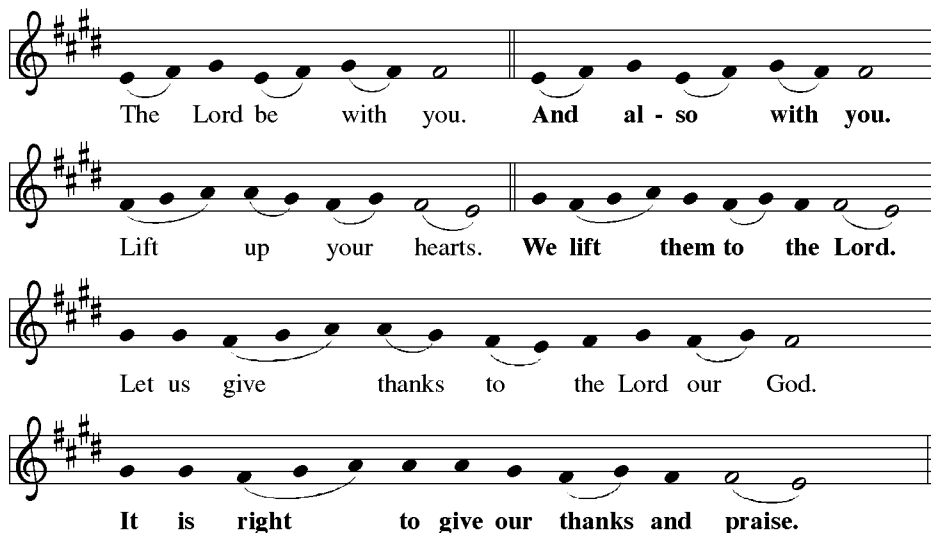
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ God of power, God of plenty,
- ☑ all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.

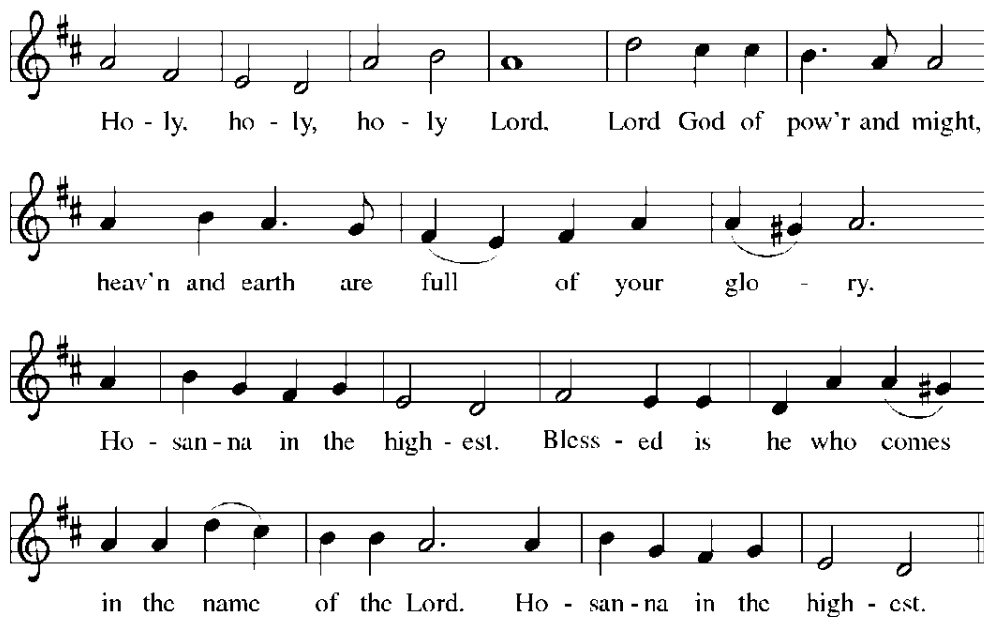
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



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.

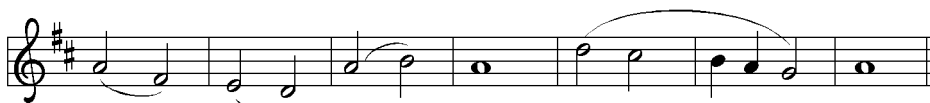
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

- P** Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
... To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

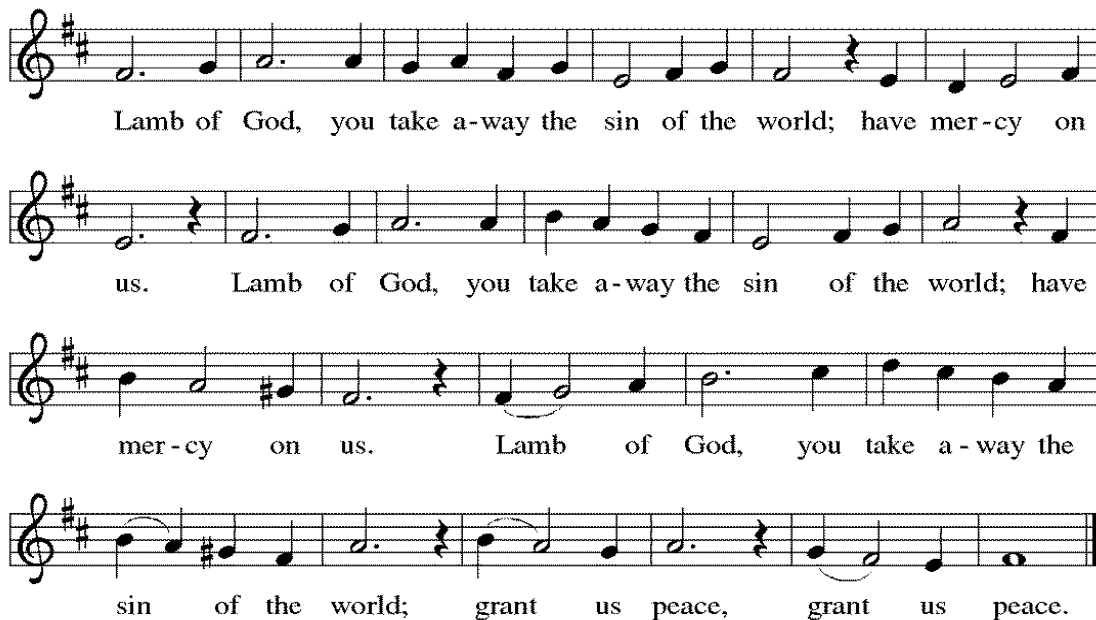
THE LORD'S PRAYER

- 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, eat and live.
-  Jesus invites us to this 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.

Refrain / Estribillo



Don-de hay ca - ri - dad y a - mor, a - llí es -
Where char-i - ty and love are shown, our God is



tá_el Se - ñor, a - llí es - tá_el Se - ñor.
there made known, our God is there made known.



1 U - na sa - la y_u - na me - sa, u - na co - pa,
1 One as - sem - bly at one ta - ble; one the cup, the
2 At the ta - ble we are wel - comed to the ban - quet
3 This, the bread of life e - ter - nal; this, the sav - ing



vi - no_y pan, los her - ma - nos com - par -
bread, the wine; in one love we are com -
from a - bove. We re - call the Lord's com -
cup we claim, draw us close with - in one



tien - do en a - mor y_en u - ni - dad.
pan - ions, and in u - ni - ty we dine.
mand - ment that we live and grow in love.
fam - 'ly, make us one in Je - sus' name.



Nos re - ú - ne la pre - sen - cia y_el re - cuer - do
Brought to - geth - er by the pres - ence and the prom - ise
As the gifts of God are giv - en, Je - sus' bod - y
Let us tell the liv - ing sto - ry of his suf - f'ring



del Se - ñor; ce - le - bra - mos su me -
of God's Word, here in joy and in re -
and his blood, so we give our - selves to
and his pain, and pro - claim the ho - ly



Refrain / Estribillo

mo - ria y la en - tre - ga de su a - mor.
mem - brance we re - ceive our lov - ing Lord.
oth - ers and we seek our neigh - bor's good.
mys - t'ry: Christ has died, yet lives to reign.

Text: Joaquín Madurga, 1938–2017; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
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“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

ELW 605



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Blessed be your name, O God,
- C** for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN *“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”* **ELW 544**

- 1

Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.
- 2

Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.
- 3

Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. God is at work in you.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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KOUNTZE STAFF

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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
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

September 16 & 17, 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 the 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 my husband, Gary Rodene; in loving memory of my father, Russ Van Horn given by Kimberly Grassmeyer

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in loving memory of my husband, Gary Rodene;

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God in loving memory of my husband, Gary Rodene

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. **Note:** No breakfast will be served on September 24 due to the church picnic. We will be serving home baked cookies that morning.

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-6

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Grades K-6

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: We will be getting to know each other and the space that we gather in. **Next Week:** we will be doing Group Building activities with a camp representative (aka Snoozy).

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:** Welcome Reception for Pr. Wynard and Family **Next week:** 2024 Stewardship Information

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 17 Sunday

Pentecost 16

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 Faith Formation Hour

September 18 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KETV Management Board

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

September 20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

September 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

September 22 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 23 Saturday

Orbit Bus Trip (gr 4-6)

5:00 PM Worship

September 24 Sunday

Pentecost 17

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~~

Home Baked Cookies this AM

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch

Thursday, September 21

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

We will have a meet and eat with Pr. Lucy. Where everyone can spend a few minutes sharing with Pr. Lucy a short biography of their history with Kountze, family, and background. Please sign up Tuesday, September 19 by calling the church office or emailing jim@kmlchurch.org. Who knows what Jim will have on the menu but it's sure to be good!

Orbit Bus Trip

Grades 4-6

Saturday, September 23

Register by September 15

9:45 AM to around 1:30 PM

Cost: \$5 (bring with you that day)

Upper Elementary students are invited for a bus-riding adventure through Omaha and the New Testament apostles' travels. Apostles are "the ones sent off," so come see where we are being sent as followers of Jesus! Bus stops include the Gene Leahy

Mall and lunch at Kountze Memorial Drop off and pick up at Westroads Transit Center at the corner of 102nd and Nicholas Streets at the Westroads Mall. **We plan to board the ORBT 9:55 AM bus, so don't be late!** Please fill out registration form found at the link below by **September 15** and inform Pastor Shari that you will be there. <https://forms.gle/rzPPPG EauKZkT15c7>

Kountze Memorial "Old Fashioned Church Picnic" Sunday September 24

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Here at the Church

Everyone is invited to attend the annual church picnic pot luck. There will be lots of activities for the young and old alike. The church will provide the entrées including a vegetarian option and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to share with everyone if attending.

You are also encouraged to "bring your favorite blanket" to put down in the green space as you enjoy lunch and conversations in our green space between the church and commons building. Of course we will have table seating outside, in the link, and the

Fellowship Hall for those who prefer not sitting on a blanket. A buffet style lunch will begin at noon, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space. Bring a blanket and spread out on the grass or you can sit at tables outside, in the Link, or the Fellowship Hall. And what would our picnic be without BINGO and prizes?! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to play. Please fill out the form found in your bulletin and drop it in the offering plate, email (jim@kmlchurch.org), call the church office (402-341-7761), or sign up at the Welcome Desk. We hope to see you all there!

Confirmation Night Out!

Grades 7 & 8

Bellevue Berry Farm

11001 S 48th St. in Papillion

Saturday, September 30

6:30-9:00 PM

Campfire #3

Cost is \$30 per person

Come kick off the fall season with some spooky fun! (Hot dogs, chips and S'mores will be provided.) Cost includes Haunted Hayrack Ride, and entry to House of Terror, plus a bonfire and food! Meet at church at 6:00 PM, and we will head to Bellevue Berry Farm together with Pastor Shari or meet us there by 6:30 PM. Registration forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall or go to <https://rb.gy/6e10r> and return payment and form to Pastor Shari by **Sunday September 24.**

New Member Classes

October 1 & 8

10:15 AM

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please consider joining our new member classes on October 1 and 8 (please plan to attend both classes). New members will be received on Sunday, October 15. Please call the church office if you have questions and to let us know you plan to attend.

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

Stained Glass Window Rededication Celebration

The celebration held last Sunday, September 10, was a great day with the sun shining in the windows and a lot of people in the pews. We want to thank Bruce Nissen, Window Celebration Task Force Chairman and the Task Force itself for their work planning the event that made it a such a fun day. Bruce and the Task Force would like to thank the congregation and local businesses for their part in making the day a success. Names of those they especially want to thank will be listed in the October Good News.

Upcoming Youth Events

Grades 1-6:

- Oct. 7 Explore Day Retreat for grades 1-6 at Carol Joy Holling Camp
- Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Pantry Bags

Grades 7 & 8:

- Nov. 10-12 Middle School Retreat at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Grades 9-12

- Oct. 8 Beignet Breakfast Fundraiser for National Youth Gathering
- Oct. 8 Scary Acres or Hollywood Candy's Dungeon of the Damned
- Nov. 12 Friendsgiving
- Nov. 17-19 NE Synod LYON Assembly at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 271 **11:00:** 116

Wednesday: 12:15: 16 **Conf:** 4

Total: 447

Streaming: 70

Pantry Guests Served: 1017 (inc. 381 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$29,572.95 (Regular) \$20,618.04 (Specials)
\$868.36 (Debt Reduction)

God is merciful and gracious, full of love.

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge one another
Wednesday	2 John 1:1-6	Truth and love
Thursday	Lamentations 3:18-24	There is still hope
Friday	2 Peter 1:1-11	Do all you can to show God's love
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers



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The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy and grace, give us hearts full of compassion, ready to forgive others as you have forgiven us through Christ Jesus, who died that we may live. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for this food that you give to us and to all. Help us to share your goodness and mercy with others through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of mercy and grace who sustains you, give you joy.

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

How do you respond when you are in conflict with a particular person or group?

Jesus sets us free to love others. What does this mean to you?

Read: Romans 14:1-12.

The world is divided in many ways. Countries are divided into parties and loyalties. Families can be divided by strong and diverse views. Even congregations can be divided by different viewpoints. Paul gives us a word that we need to hear today. We are to keep the main thing the main thing, and that is this: Christ died to be the Lord of all. Therefore, why pass judgment and despise those for whom Christ died? As the saying goes, "When you look into the eyes of another, you are looking at someone God loves." Be careful not to judge and condemn. As Psalm 103:8 reminds us, "*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*" Our God who is slow to anger should be a strong caution to us not to be quick to judge. Whether it is over diet, piety, political or economic convictions, our judgments will all pass away, but God's judgment is eternal, and that judgment is most clearly seen from the cross of Christ. Jesus died for us that we may be set free to love others, in spite of our differences.

Discuss: What relationship do you have with someone where you could use a kinder word to reconcile that relationship through Christ our Lord?

Pray: Almighty and living God, help us to see beyond our self-righteous judgments of others and to receive your forgiveness with joy and gladness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, who in your life can you reach out to with a word or action that expresses forgiveness?

Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think or talk about a time when you forgave someone or someone forgave you and how it may have changed your relationship. **Pray: Dear Lord, help me to open my heart and mind to know when to forgive and when to ask for forgiveness for my words or actions towards another. In Jesus' name, amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16