

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 24, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Bruce Nissen, *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 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

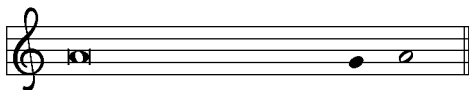
5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, al

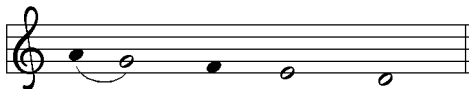
APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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



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.



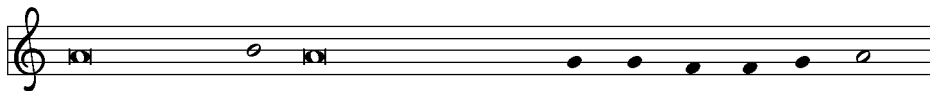
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

- ☞ Almighty and eternal God,
☞ **you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:1-8 (*read responsively*)

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—
³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C 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.

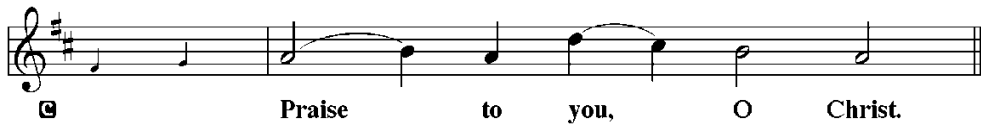
HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

"As Saints of Old"

ELW 695

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought
of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today firstfruits would bring,
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.</p> | <p>2 A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;
all life in Christ made new.</p> |
| <p>3 In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.</p> | |

Text: Frank von Christiernson, 1900-1996, alt.
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(sit)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☞ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.**
- ☞ 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: **☞ Merciful God,**
☞ receive our prayer.

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

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Harrison Gray Geiser (9/23)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Barb Andersen and Marge Bock

Prayers This Week: Ellie Carlson, Martha Eckmann, 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: *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

“Grace Alone”

Tom Ketke

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679

Stanzas 1 & 3

**1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

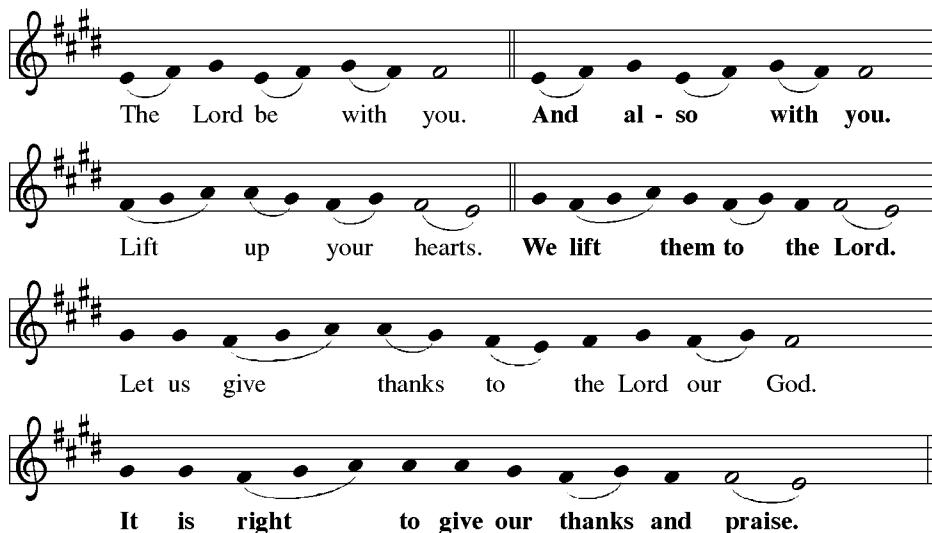
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OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞ 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.

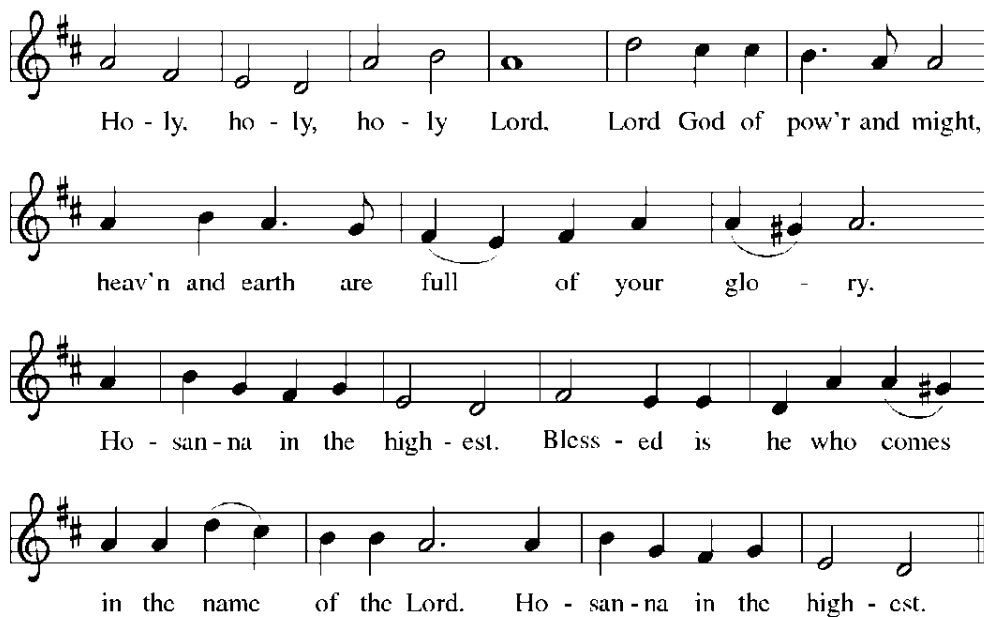
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

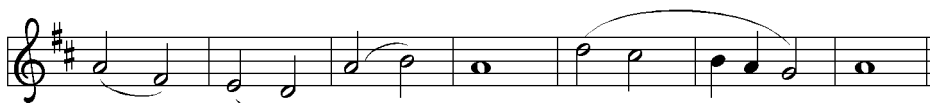
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- 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.

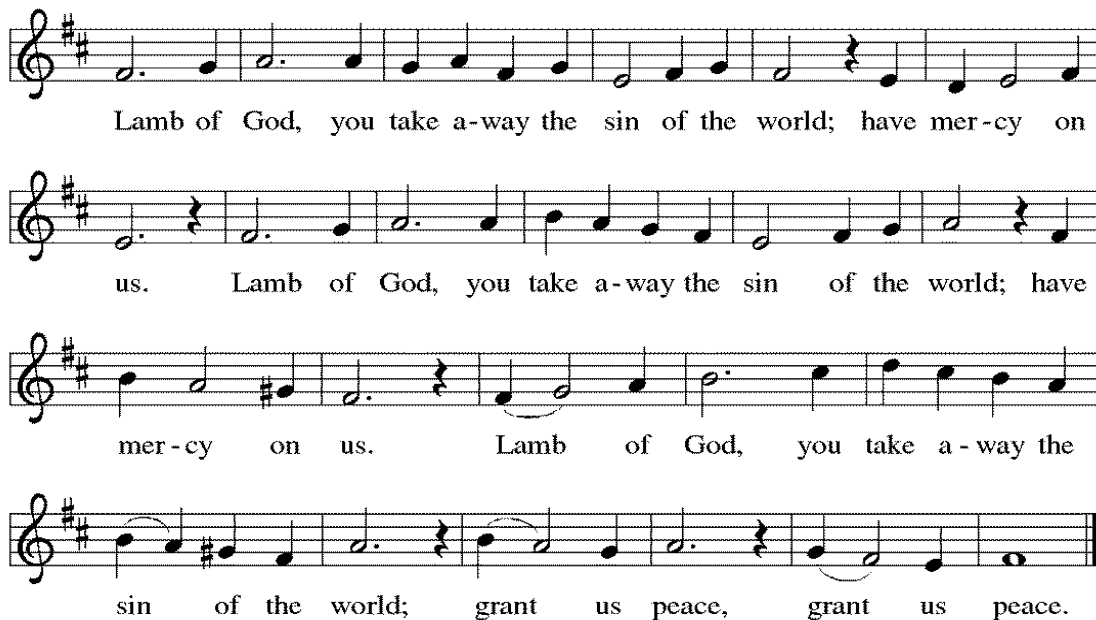
THE LORD'S PRAYER

- 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

P Come, eat and live.

C 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.

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.</p> <p>2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.</p> | <p>3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.</p> <p>4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"

ELW 358

Stanzas 1-3, 5

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.</p> <p>2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.</p> | <p>3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.</p> <p>5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.</p> |
|--|---|

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(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

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

ELW 545

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.</p> | <p>2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.</p> |
| <p>3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.</p> | |

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Bruce Nissen, *organ*

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
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**

September 23 & 24, 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 honor of Curt John's 75th birthday; in loving memory of my wife, Joyce E. Hahn given by Wayne Hahn

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in honor of Doris & Rick Vial's 25th wedding anniversary given by Albert & Ilse Grage

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God in memory of Carol Olsen given by her sister, Donna Reinig

Kountze Café

No breakfast will be served today due to the church picnic. We will be serving home baked cookies during fellowship time.

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

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

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 doing Group Building activities with a camp representative (aka Snoozy).

Next Week: Exploring Faith and Current Events

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:** The Gospel of Matthew: An Overview Information **Next week:** The Gospel of Matthew and Judaism

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. There will be lots of activities for the young and old alike. We will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall. A buffet style lunch will begin at noon, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to play BINGO. We hope to see you all there!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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)

9:10 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM ~~Kountze Cafe - Breakfast~~

Home Baked Cookies this AM

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

September 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

September 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KETV Management Board

12:30 PM Circle 3

September 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

September 28 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

September 29 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

September 30 Saturday

Homebound Communion

5:00 PM Worship

6:30 PM Bellevue Berry Farm/
Campfire (gr 6-8)

October 1 Sunday

Pentecost 18

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:10 AM New Member Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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.

St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day
October 4

7:00 PM
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (113 North 18th St.)
We have been invited to participate in this simple service that will focus on St. Francis' inspiration as a peacemaker. Our choir will be participating in the service.

Cards with Friends
Thursday, October 5
2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

Blessing of the Animals
Saint Cecilia Cathedral
701 N 40th Street

Saturday, October 7
Blessing at 11:00 AM
Pr. Hall will again be participating the "Blessing of the Animals" that occurs with the clergy of St. Cecilia's and Trinity Episcopal as part of the St. Cecilia's Cathedral Fest.

KMLC Book Group
Fellowship Lounge
Sunday, October 8
12:15 PM

New Members are Welcome!
This month we will be reading *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*. This is the ninth novel written by best selling author, Allison Pataki. It is historical fiction about Marjorie Merriwether Post, a woman of American Royalty, becoming the wealthiest woman in the United States before she was thirty years old. She was the daughter of C. W. Post, founder of the Post Cereal Company that grew into the General Foods empire of which Marjorie became it's leader through inheritance. Marjorie has led an intriguing life from gluing labels on post cereal boxes as a child in Battle Creek, Illinois, a cycle of four marriages and divorces, mother of three daughters. She outran Natzi's in London, served soup to hungry people during The Great Depression, and greeted and hosted U. S. Presidents and their wives. This is a novel of a strong woman in American History.

Kountze Food Pantry
Thank-you to everyone who donated toilet tissue to the Kountze Food Pantry. It really helps our guests to have hygiene products. This month we are having a soup drive! Please consider picking up a can or two when you shop and place them in Pantry donation box in the Fellowship Hall. As always, we are in need of volunteers, especially on Friday evenings. You can sign up at the following link or contact Susie Henry at susannfrances@kmlchurch.org
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

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
Nov. 12 Friendsgiving
Nov. 17-19 NE Synod LYON Assembly at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 28
Sunday: 9:00: 166 **11:00:** 58
Wednesday: 12:15: 7 **Conf:** 4
Total: 278
Streaming: 49
Pantry Guests Served: 995 (inc. 378 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21
Offering:
\$9,648.15 (Regular) \$2,697.08 (Specials)
\$612.00 (Debt Reduction)

Responding to God's generosity with gratitude.

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	Philippians 1:21-30	What life means to Paul
Wednesday	Psalms 136	God's love never fails
Thursday	Matthew 5:3-12	The Beatitudes
Friday	Acts 20:32-38	Paul says goodbye
Saturday	Psalms 145:1-8	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons



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"Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last. **Matthew 20:15-16 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are more generous than we can imagine or deserve. Thank you for your love and mercy that has no end through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food and all that you give, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen. (Psalm 145:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May you be reminded of God's love and generosity each day.

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

- When is a time you feel you were treated unfairly?
- How would you describe God's generosity? Give an example.

Read: Matthew 20:1-16.

Fairness is in the eyes of the beholder. Most of us have experienced a time when we felt we were treated unfairly. It gets all the more frustrating when the sense of fairness is decided by God's grace. Who or what we see that should be last, may end up being first and a privileged recipient of God's generosity. There are times when the apparent unfairness of this parable can sound like good news when we are hurting, needing any help we can get, and can only take what is offered. This parable points to what God offers us—grace upon grace—something that is so much more than we deserve. As a result, our lives are able to respond with overwhelming gratitude. If gratitude is not our response to Jesus' parable, it may lead us to the observation that our sense of being first has missed the point; we may need to review the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-13) for God's sense of fairness and living rightly before God.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's generosity? How did you respond?

Pray: God of justice and mercy, help us to see as you see and to live with compassion for all and with gratitude for what we receive through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show an act of undeserved kindness to someone this week?

Psalms 145:4 tells us: *"One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts."* Think or talk about people from older or younger generations who have shown and taught you about God's love and generosity through Jesus. Consider drawing a picture, writing a note, or calling them to say thank you. As a reminder of God's generosity, prayerfully recite: ***"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."*** (Psalm 145:8)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalms 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32