

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor

Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor

H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street

Omaha, NE 68131-3616

402-341-7761

[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

November 12, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.*

## 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 the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C** Amen.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Holy One,

**C** we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

**P** Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**C** Amen.

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand  
amid the heav'nly throng;  
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land  
the new celestial song,  
the new celestial song.
- 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come  
and show himself as Lord,  
and thousands meet in their new home  
which Jesus has prepared,  
which Jesus has prepared.

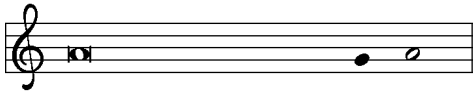
- 3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood  
of joy and love and peace  
will roll down over us with good  
and blessedness and grace,  
and blessedness and grace.
- 4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;  
your love has made us free  
to stand among the saints and sing  
the glory that we see,  
the glory that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. composite

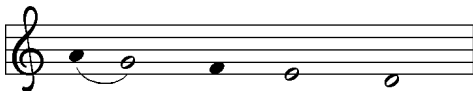
### APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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.



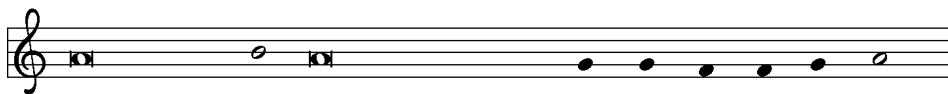
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

- P** O God of justice and love,  
**G** you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Amos 5:18-24**

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

**A** las for you who desire the day of the LORD!  
Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,  
and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,  
and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 70 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me

turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

**W**e do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

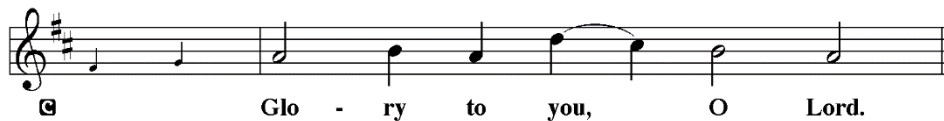


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.



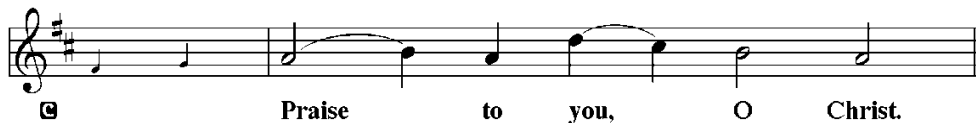
## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 25:1-13**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

**T**hen the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

## **P** The Gospel of the Lord.



*(sit)*

## **CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM**

*Children (aged 3 years through 6<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.*

*(sit)*

## **SERMON**

*Pastor Duminy*



(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*When Peace like a River*

**ELW 785**

*stanzas 1 & 3*

**1** When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

### *Refrain*

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

**3** He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

*Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888.*

## HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

see ELW pg 227

(sit)

## THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

**P** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    **P** Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

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

**Thanksgiving:** for the baptism of Sloane Colette Olson, daughter of Nicholas & Jessica Olson

**Prayers This Week:** Barb Pryor, Idonna Meyer, Ellie Carlson, Diane Rasmussen, Jim West, Gary Westerman

**On-going Care:** Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Jim Hopkins, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Julie King, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, 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. Bridget Gautieri, 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*— James Holzer, 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

*Joyful, Joyful, Sing Praise*

Jay Althouse

(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

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of all goodness,  
**C** generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. As we gather these gifts from your abundance and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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.

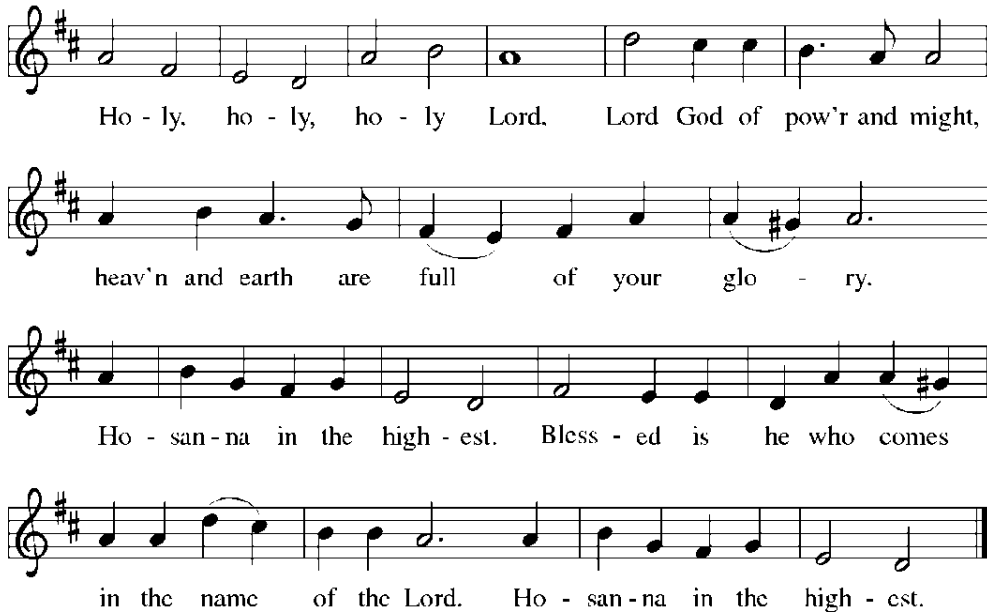
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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

- ☐ 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.

- ☐ 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

☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☐ **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

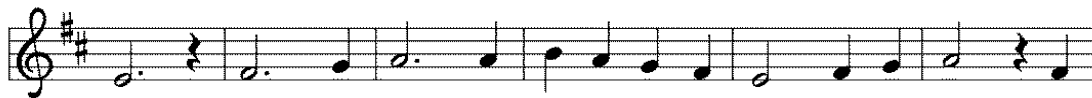
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

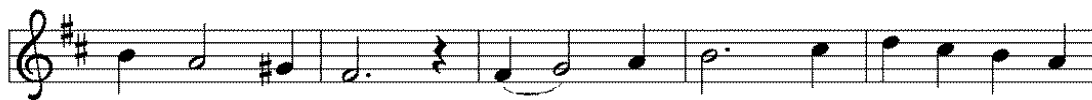
## AGNUS DEI



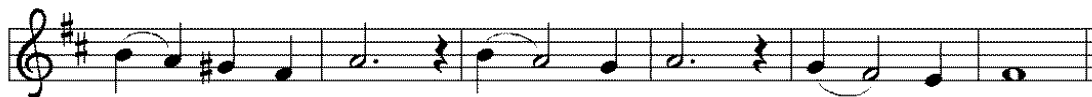
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have





mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

-  Come and feast at Jesus' table.  
 There is a place for all at the banquet.

(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

*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

**ELW 488**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,<br/>leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,<br/>come into the daylight's splendor,<br/>there with joy your praises render.<br/>Bless the one whose grace unbounded<br/>this amazing banquet founded;<br/>Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,<br/>deigns to dwell with you most lowly.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Now in faith I humbly ponder<br/>over this surpassing wonder<br/>that the bread of life is boundless<br/>though the souls it feeds are countless;<br/>with the choicest wine of heaven<br/>Christ's own blood to us is given.<br/>Oh, most glorious consolation,<br/>pledge and seal of my salvation.</p> |
| <p><b>2</b> Hasten as a bride to meet him,<br/>eagerly and gladly greet him.<br/>There he stands already knocking;<br/>quickly, now, your gate unlocking,<br/>open wide the fast-closed portal,<br/>saying to the Lord immortal:<br/>"Come, and leave your loved one never;<br/>dwell within my heart forever."</p>                        | <p><b>4</b> Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,<br/>truest friend, and dearest treasure,<br/>peace beyond all understanding,<br/>joy into all life expanding:<br/>humbly now, I bow before you,<br/>love incarnate, I adore you;<br/>worthily let me receive you,<br/>and, so favored, never leave you.</p>            |

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Look who gathers at Christ's table!<br/>Hear the stories that they bring.<br/>Some are weeping; some are laughing;<br/>some have songs they want to sing.<br/>Others ask why they're invited,<br/>burdened by the wrong they've done.<br/>Christ insists they all are welcome.<br/>There is room for ev'ryone.</p> <p><b>2</b> Clouds of light surround the table;<br/>ancient followers appear,<br/>saints confessing how they wrestled<br/>with their guilt, their doubt and fear.<br/>Peter tells of his denying<br/>Christ was ever in his sight;<br/>Paul relates his fruitless efforts<br/>to obliterate the light.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Their sad stories are repeated<br/>in a thousand diff'rent ways,<br/>but they share one thing in common:<br/>they all end in thanks and praise<br/>for the host who has invited<br/>north and south and east and west<br/>to converge around this table,<br/>where all life is fed and blest.</p> <p><b>4</b> Bring your joy and bring your sadness,<br/>and prepare to be surprised<br/>by the host whose hands are wounded,<br/>who will open wide your eyes<br/>when he blesses bread and breaks it—<br/>truth and manna from above!—<br/>and then passes wine that wakens<br/>in your heart the taste of love.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

*(stand)*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** Lord Jesus,
- G** in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

**ELW 685**

*stanzas 1-4*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Take my life, that I may be<br/>consecrated, Lord, to thee;<br/>take my moments and my days;<br/>let them flow in ceaseless praise.</b></p> <p><b>2 Take my hands and let them move<br/>at the impulse of thy love;<br/>take my feet and let them be<br/>swift and beautiful for thee.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Take my voice and let me sing<br/>always, only, for my King;<br/>take my lips and let them be<br/>filled with messages from thee.</b></p> <p><b>4 Take my silver and my gold,<br/>not a mite would I withhold;<br/>take my intellect and use<br/>ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.</b></p> |
|--|--|

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
☞ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Joned, organ





### KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Barrett	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
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131  
www.kmlchurch.org**

**November 11 & 12, 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.*

### **Today at Kountze Memorial**

#### **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. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

#### **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.**



**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Dannika Rees for her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday given by parents, Toby & Eric Rees; in memory of Tom Holcombe given by his family

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Dean Anderson by his wife, Darlene

#### **Kountze Café**

**9:30—11:00 AM**

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

### **Faith Formation**

#### **Children's Choir**

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

**Grades K-6**

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Sunday School Music Room

#### **Sunday School**

**10:10 AM**

**Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Rooms.

#### **Youth Forum**

**Lower Level Youth Room**

**This week: Bible Study** – Created to Be (prep for ELCA Youth Gathering) **Next Week:** Time with Pastor Lucy

#### **Adult Forum**

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** What is the “Communion of Saints”? Souls **Next week:** Preview of Advent

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

**Friendsgiving**  
**Sunday, November 12**  
**5:00 PM**  
**In the KMLC Fellowship Hall**

**All High School, College Youth, and  
Young Adults (22-35 year olds)**

You are invited to attend a Friendsgiving at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Bring a favorite dish to share. Invite your friends. Please consider allergies such as

peanuts/nuts, gluten, etc. and those who might be vegan and vegetarian. It is our hope that through this time together of meal and conversation we can explore our gratitude for what friendships bring to our life and how God is a very best friend throughout life.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### November 12 Sunday

Pentecost 24  
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  
12:15 PM Book Group  
5:00 PM Friendsgiving (High School,  
College, & Young Adults (22-35 yrs))

### November 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### November 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
4:00—6:00 PM KCCOC Open House

### November 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline  
12:15 PM Worship  
4:00 PM Executive Committee  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### November 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

### November 17 Friday

Nov 17 - Nov 19 NE Synod LYON  
Assembly (gr 9-12) Camp CJH  
5:00 PM Pantry

### November 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### November 19 Sunday

Pentecost  
Pledge Sunday  
Service Project - Thanksgiving Bags  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center Open House

**Tuesday, November 14**

**4:00—6:00 PM**

Please join us for an Open House to recognize our volunteers and supporters, celebrate our partnerships, and welcome new collaborations as we *Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, and Tend the Soul*.

### Men's Lunch

**Thursday, November 16**

**11:30 AM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Chili Cookoff!**

**Suggested Donation: Pot of Chili or Stuffed Animal/Toy for the Pantry**

Come eat and vote on your favorite chili. There will be prizes for the top three and a great time of fellowship for all. Call the church office or email [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to sign up. Let us know if you will be entering a pot of chili or just attending. If you're entering a pot of chili the cost is free otherwise suggested donation for the event will be a new stuffed animal/toy to be distributed by the Kountze food

pantry as Christmas gifts for our young pantry guests.

### LYON Assembly

Mia Valquier, Sheyenne Glasgow, and Pr. Shari will be attending LYON (Lutheran Youth of Nebraska ELCA Synod) Gathering November 17—19 at Carol Joy Holling Camp

### Pledge Weekend

**Saturday & Sunday, November 18 & 19**

**"Go and... Be Kountze!"**

During this next week, please consider the wonderful blessings God has given you and then bring your completed Statement of Intent card to worship with you.

### 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Performance of Handel's Messiah

**Sunday, November 19, 2023**

**3:00 PM**

### Holland Performing Arts Center

Voices of Omaha presents an annual performance of Handel's Messiah without admission charge as a gift to the community.



*Worship that is pleasing to God.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Psalms 106:1-12	A confession of Israel's sins
Thursday	Isaiah 1:10-17	Justice is needed, not sacrifices
Friday	Deuteronomy 16:18-20	Treat everyone with justice
Saturday	Psalms 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your call for justice and mercy that gives hope to our lives and to the generations to come through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the God who shows mercy on the poor deliver you from harm. (Psalm 70:5)

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Why is care for those in need so important?
- What type of worship do you think pleases God? Explain.

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Amos 5:18-24.

Amos' prophetic words are not addressed to those who are indifferent or have actively rejected faith in God. His message is for those who worship God. He uses words of caution filled with danger and accusation. The worshiping community becomes shaken out of complacency. What God sees and smells and hears in worship is not pleasing. Worship is offered without concern for the needs of the poor (justice) and the wellbeing of the community (righteousness). Worship that is pleasing to God includes the daily life activity of people that shows compassion and delights in healthy relationships. Worship promotes a faithful way of life that is itself a form of worship and praise to God. It is good to know that the power of God's justice is like a flood of water, a deluge, and God's righteousness is constant like a stream that never stops flowing.

*Discuss:* How does worship lead you to acts of compassion that serve the needs of others?

*Pray:* **God of justice and mercy, may our worship life reflect your compassion for the needy and our need for strong and life-giving relationships through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to enable them to have life-giving relationships?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Matthew 25:1-13 is the parable of the foolish bridesmaids who did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to keep the faith alive and "burning" while waiting for Christ's return. We can do this by being ready to do God's work every day. Light a candle to symbolize the light of Jesus' love shining. While the candle is burning write a list of ways you can do God's work every day.

*Pray:* **Dear God, be with me each day. Help me to show love, fairness, and care for others through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30