

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

November 19, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

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.

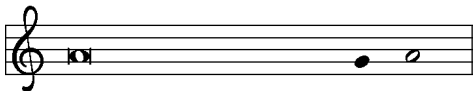
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:</p> <p>2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.</p> | <p>3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.</p> <p>4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.</p> |
|--|---|
- 6** O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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.



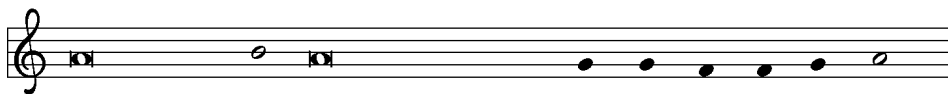
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

Assisting minister



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

All



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** Righteous God, our merciful master,
G you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8, 12 *(read responsively)*

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

☒ 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.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

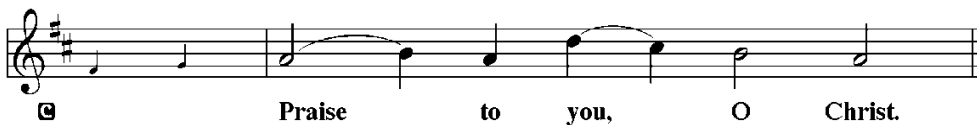
HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.



(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 6th 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.

(stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* **ELW 678 vs. 1 & 3**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.</p> | <p>3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006

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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: **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)

Prayers This Week: Ellie Carlson, Idonna Meyer, Barb Pryor, Diane Rasmussen, David Samaria, 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

As Long As I Have Breath

Sue Farrar

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

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

- 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.

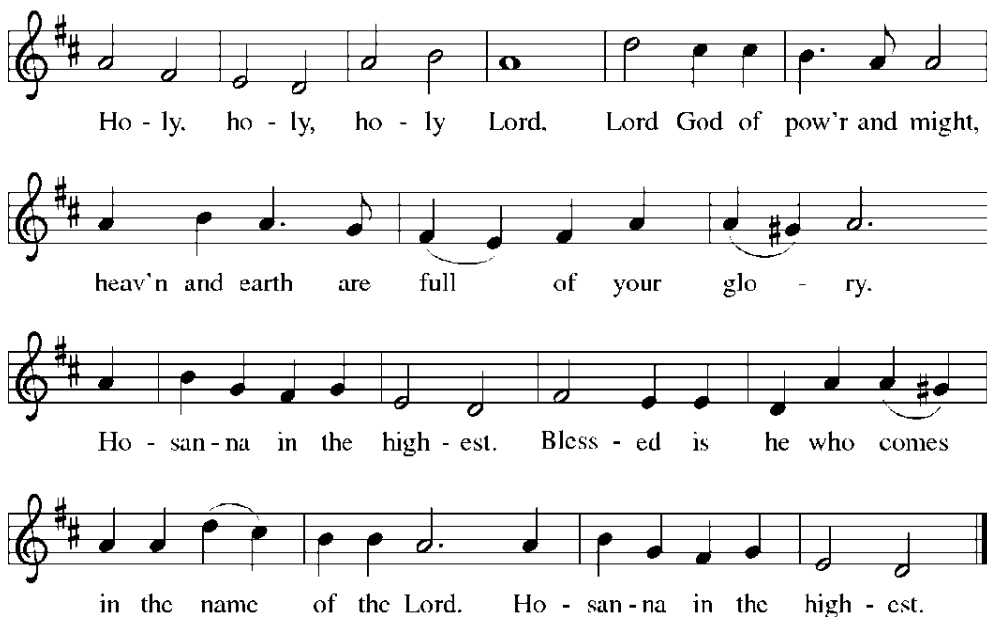
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

- P** 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.

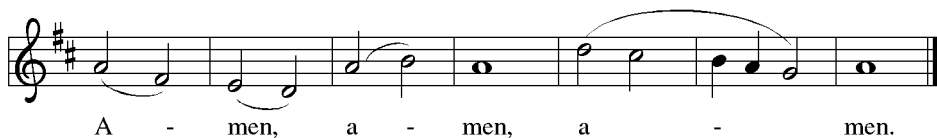
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ 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

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.

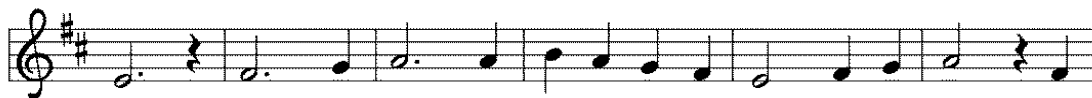
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

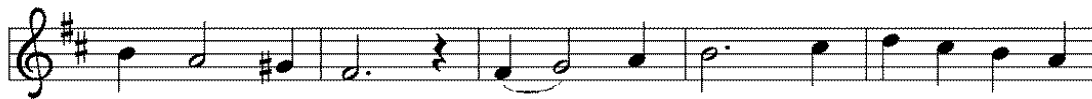
AGNUS DEI



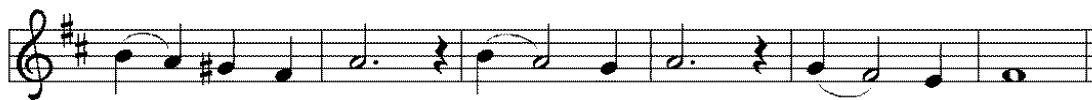
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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 and feast at Jesus' table.

C 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

O Christ the Same

ELW 760

- 1 O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.**

- 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving pow'r,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.**

- 3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.</p> <p>2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.</p> | <p>3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.</p> <p>4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.
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(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞** Lord Jesus,
- ☞ 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

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.</p> <p>2 We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.</p> | <p>3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.</p> <p>4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.</p> |
|---|---|

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, organ



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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 18 & 19, 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. 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.



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Lynn Schneiderman's 61st birthday; given with loving thanks in honor of our dear parents, Bob and Wilma Wallin by Ann Harrington, Lyn Ziegenbein, Julie Kaewert

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 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.

Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: Bible Study – Time with Pastor Lucy **Next Week: Games**

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Preview of Advent **Next week:** Fellowship

LYON Assembly

Mia Valquier, Sheyenne Glasgow, and Pr. Shari will be attending LYON (Lutheran Youth of Nebraska ELCA)

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Synod) Gathering November 17—19 at Carol Joy Holling Camp

Pledge Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, November 18 & 19

"Go and... Be Kountze!"

Statement of Intent cards will be brought forward during Communion. There is a basket in both the Nave and Rotunda.

54th 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.

Progress Not Perfection

Recovery Meeting

Kountze Commons—Lower Level

Sundays, 3:00 PM

For information contact David Tollefson (402-943-8150)

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th St (corner of N 18th & Capitol)

Sunday, November 19

6:00 PM

Trinity Cathedral is excited to host this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Let's join our interfaith siblings and give thanks to God! Theme: Unity in a Time of Conflict
Speaker: Mike Hornacek, Together, Inc. The offering goes to Together, Inc.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

3:00 PM Recovery Meeting

November 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

5:00 PM Council Ministries

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

November 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

November 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

November 23 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving

Meal @ St. Peters

November 24 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

November 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 26 Sunday

Christ the King

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Decorate for Advent

Saturday, December 2

9:30 AM

You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Norma's Nursery Open House

Sunday, December 3

10:00—11:00 AM

Stop by the Nursery sometime between 10:00 & 11:00 AM for our nursery renaming event.

Annual Advent Fair

December 3

10:00 AM - Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be doing a Diaper Drive during the Advent Fair. Please bring diapers, wipes, formula, or other infant related items that we will donate to the local women's shelters.

Advent Meals & Worship
December 6, 13, and 20
Lunch: 11:00 AM – Noon
Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 PM
Worship: 6:30

- Mark your calendars and join us for Advent meals followed by Worship.
- We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals.
- All meals are free will offering.

Cards with Friends
Thursday, December 7
2:00 PM
 Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

Annual Merry Tuba Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 10
3:30 PM
Held at Kountze Memorial
 Bring your friends, the concert is free and open to the Public. It will be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Candlelight Carol Service
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 16
Prelude begins at 4:40 PM
Service 5:00 PM
Reception Following
Nursery Care will be Provided
 The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of sacred scripture and poetry, congregational carols, handbells, brass, organ, and piano. Please join us following the service for a lovely reception.

We didn't have quite enough magnets to put in the mailing with your Statement of Intent card. If you didn't receive one, be sure to pick one up this weekend when you return your pledge card. Additional cards and magnets can be found in the back of the Nave and in the Fellowship Hall at the Welcome Desk.



GO AND BE



Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17
9:00 AM
 Experience the true spirit of Christmas as our little ones share the story of love, hope, and joy through songs and readings. Don't miss out on this wonderful celebration! The children have been working hard and look forward to sharing the joy of the season with us.

ELCA Young Adult Gathering
Young Adults (19-25-year-olds)
July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans
 An ELCA Young Adult Gathering will take place at the same time as the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Each group will have separate daytime offerings followed by a joint Evening Program. As this is a new event, plans are still being made. We hope you will consider attending this event. Please contact Pr. Shari or the church office if you are interested in attending. For more info or to register, go to
<https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering>

Kountze Food Pantry
 This month the Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes and floss, or flossing picks. Please place donated items in the marked box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone for donating soup in October! We can always use more grocery bags. We use both plastic and paper. Please sign up with the link below if you would like to serve at the Kountze Food Pantry.
<https://www.signupforthis.com/253367>

Wrr krwB Wrr frqB
 Thanks to a grant from endowment our building management system that controls the heating and A/C in many parts of the building has been replaced this week. Please bear with us as we make adjustments to make sure temperatures are more stable and comfortable for everyone.

Attendance & Giving	
Saturday:	31
Sunday: 9:00:	181
11:00:	88
Wednesday: 12:15:	9
Conf:	5
Total:	323
Streaming:	48
Pantry Guests Served:	1,080 (inc. 407 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served:	16
Offering:	
\$14,333.69 (Regular)	\$2,712.32 (Specials)
\$1,087.00 (Debt Reduction)	

Jesus calls us to action.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	James 1:19-27	Hearing and doing the word
Thursday	James 2:14-26	Faith without works is dead
Friday	1 John 3:18-24	Love one another
Saturday	Psalm 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" **Matthew 25:23 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, you know our frailty and limitations. Give us faith and courage to act with boldness for the sake of your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food that nourishes us, for the people that support us, and for your goodness that renews us, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you experience the joy of your God through Christ our Lord.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are some thoughts, principles, and beliefs that guide your daily life?
- How does the Christian faith help guide you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:14-30.

Jesus' parables, stories that teach a religious lesson, are powerful. They have a message for us. They get into our heads and make us think. In this reading, is God like the master who is *"a harsh man, reaping where [he] did not sow"* (v. 24)? Of course not. Parables are not necessarily stories that place God as one character and us as another. Just as the actions of the master lead to a definite action by the slave, so our God leads us to definite action. Followers of Jesus are gifted with valued contributions for the work of God's kingdom. God's grace and mercy blesses people through our actions. So act, not for personal benefit but for the joy of living in the grace of God. Christianity is not meant to be simply a philosophy that we think about but a life we experience with others and with God. It includes a *"wise heart"* (Psalm 90:12) that gives attention to what matters and what brings kindness and joy to the world.

Discuss: What gifts and opportunities has God given you to care for others and give witness to the love of God in Christ?

Pray: **God of abundance, your judgments are true and full of compassion for all that you create. Give us wise hearts to give you praise and serve our neighbor in love through Christ. 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 with acts of kindness that reflect the abundant love of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The apostle Paul writes *"encourage one another and build each other up"* (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Think or talk about ways you can be affirming and encouraging to others. Name one person in particular and write a note to them to tell them a gift you have recognized in them, what you appreciate about them, and give words of encouragement to them. End the note with a blessing: Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope and love, this day and always. (1 Thessalonians 5:5, 8)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46