

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

May 7, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in EASTER



As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Jean Johnson, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.
- C** Amen.

- P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

- C** Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.
- P** Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
- C** Amen.

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious king,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy,
this alone can sin destroy!
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, 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.
G And also with you.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ **your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (read responsively)

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

☐ 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. John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I

will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

(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, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense”

ELW 621 vs 1-3

**1 Jesus lives, my sure defense
and my everlasting Savior!
Knowing this, my confidence
rests in hope and will not waver,
though the night of death be fraught
still with many an anxious thought.**

**2 Jesus, my redeemer, lives;
I too unto life shall waken.
Bright the hope this promise gives;
shall my courage, then, be shaken?
Shall I fear then? Can the head
rise and leave the members dead?**

**3 No, too closely am I bound
unto him by hope forever;
faith's strong hand the rock has found,
grasped it, and will leave it never;
even death now cannot part
from its Lord the trusting heart.**

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616-1679; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

(sit)

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS (9:00 AM)

☞ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Judy McIntire

Roy Miller

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (11:00 AM)

☞ 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.**

P In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P *Sisters and brothers* in Christ: do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

May almighty God – Father, Son † and Holy Spirit – who gave you the will to reaffirm your baptismal vows also give you the grace and the strength to uphold them.

P People of God: do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

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

P Let us pray: we give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

C **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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Gene Buchholz; to the family and friends of Lois Lepper, mother of Debi Clatterbuck

Prayers this week: Jim Tunzer

On-going Care: Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Joel Brown, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Dee-Dee Lundahl, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, 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, Justin Perkins

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

“Come Now and Follow Me”

Don Besig & Nancy Price

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”

ELW 373 vs. 1, 4, 5



1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day!” All on earth with an - gels say;
2 Love’s re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav’ns; and earth, re - ply.
Lo! The sun’s e - clipse is o’er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n!
Praise to thee by both be giv’n.
Thee we greet triumphant now:
hail, the resurrection, thou!

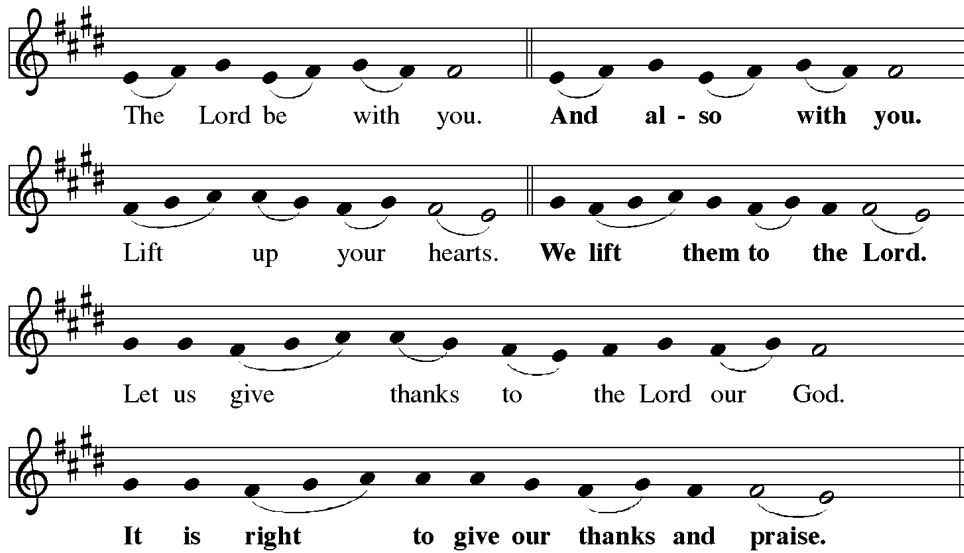
6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love!

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Generous God,

☑ in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

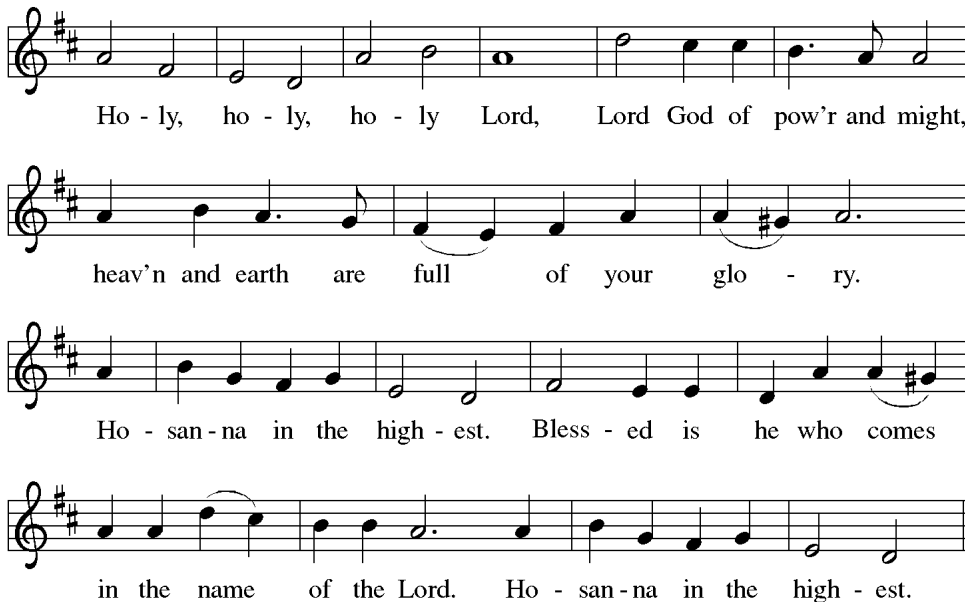
HOLY COMMUNION



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.

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P** O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** With your holy ones of all times and places, ...
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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 know Christ,
- C** broken and poured out for us.

(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

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

ELW 378 vs 1-3

- 1 Awake, my heart, with gladness,
see what today is done;
now, after gloom and sadness,
comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid
where our bed must be made
when, as on wings in flight,
we soar to realms of light.
- 2 Now hell, its prince, the devil,
of all their pow'r are shorn;
now I am safe from evil,
and sin I laugh to scorn.
For Christ again is free;
in glorious victory
he who is strong to save
has triumphed o'er the grave.
- 3 This is a sight that gladdens—
what peace it does impart!
Now nothing ever saddens
the joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake,
no foe shall ever take,
the hope which God's own Son
in love for me has won.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. John Kelly, 1833-1890, alt.

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

ELW 619 vs 1-3

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.
- 3 He lives to grant me rich supply;
he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint;
he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ Gracious God,
☞ in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

- ☞ The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live as a new creation.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

ELW 367

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>2 Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p>3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>4 Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jean Johnson, *organ*



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UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP AT KOUNTZE

Sunday, May 7

10:10 AM Fellowship Reception of New Members

Sunday, May 14

9 & 11 AM High School Graduate Quilt Blessing (during worship services)

10:10 AM Fellowship Recognition of Graduates

Saturday, May 20

6:00 PM Farewell Potluck for Vicar Gretchen (after 5 pm worship service)

Sunday, May 21

Vicar Gretchen's Farewell Sunday

10:10 AM Fellowship Reception for Vicar Gretchen's Farewell

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	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

May 6 & 7, 2023

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Robert & Pat Ranney in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary.

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.

Children's Choir

Second Floor Music Room

Sundays, 9:15 AM—(after the 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)
Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs.) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Sunday School Focus

The Sunday School curriculum after Easter has been focusing on The Road to Emmaus. To end the Sunday School year, the children have been and will continue to study this lesson through a Rotation curriculum. This way of presenting a lesson involves teaching the same lesson through several different classes that include the mission of the scripture, cooking, art, and science. The Sunday School year will conclude on May 21 with a lesson taught through games.

Youth Forum

Grades 7 - 12

Sundays from 10:10 AM

Join us in the Youth Room for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Questions and Doubts. Let's talk about them! **Next week:** Senior High School Graduates Celebration in Fellowship Hall

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, *continued*

Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Reception of New Members; brief updates on the Call Process, Window Installation, & Tuckpointing **Next week:** Recognition of Graduates

Sunday Evening Gathering – Downtown Amazing Race Grades 8 – 12

Sunday May 7 6:30 PM

Join us as we move together as a group on foot, we will see how many things we can view on our list. A stop for ice cream ends the journey.

Invitation to Sponsor our Summer Youth Trip: Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Five youth have said yes to this journey. We are asking you during the month of April if you would give a gift to

sponsor our youth on this trip. Any gift is appreciated and for your generosity you will receive thank you notes from participants and recognition at our Summer Youth Trip Sharing Event. We appreciate your consideration of how you might be a part of this ministry.

May Sunday School Service Project

In reading of The Road to Emmaus, it reads, “When he was at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.” Luke 30. To help reinforce this lesson, the Sunday School service project will be to gather and donate snacks for the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House at Children’s Hospital. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Sunday School office before the end of the Sunday School year on May 21.

Blindness Prevention Month

May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 7 Sunday

Easter 5
Homebound Communion
Receive New Members
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 Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

May 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
11:00 AM Gene Buchholz Memorial Service

May 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Lutheran Women of Omaha

May 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
6:00 PM Executive Committee

May 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due
9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
12:00 PM Omaha Youth Network
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 13 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 14 Sunday

Easter 6
Mother's Day
Graduation Sunday
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 Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Lutheran Women Omaha

Tuesday, May 9, 12:00 Noon

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Program on Holden Village by Pastor Shari Duminy.

Come join us! Bring your own sack lunch plus \$3.00 fee. Dessert provided. Reservations required. Phone Faith at 402- 734- 4629

Honoring our High School and Other Graduates

Sunday, May 14

On May 14 we will uplift the names of all who have celebrated a graduation this past year. Cards of congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day.

High School Graduates:

- Arianna Ascani
- Filip Boskamp
- Braden Bonacci
- Sofia Di Lorenzo
- John Groenjes
- Dannika Rees

Collegiate and Graduate Degree Recipients:

Sarah Jewell

Associates in Interior Design
Metro Community College – May 12, 2023

Ellie Kopp

Bachelor of Arts – Music Education
Indiana University – May 6, 2023

Gretchen Olson Kopp

Master of Divinity

Wartburg Theological Seminary – May 14, 2023

Justin Perkins

Master of Divinity

University of Chicago Divinity School - June 2 & 3

Dr. Elliott Jacobson

Ph.D. in Spanish

University of Nebraska at Lincoln – May 19, 2023

Dr. Nicholas Wemhoff, Ed.D.

Doctorate of Education Degree

Doane University – May 13, 2023

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing**Sunday, May 14****9:00 or 11:00 AM**

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served.

Ascension Day Liturgy**Thursday, May 18****6:30 PM****Held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (113 N 18th St.)**

Kountze Memorial will continue its tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, Trinity will be hosting the liturgy. Bishop Scott Johnson will preach and Bishop Scott Barker will preside, with other clergy from Kountze Memorial and Trinity. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome.

Carol Joy Holling Work Day**Saturday, May 20, 2023****8:00 AM - Lunch**

For more info and to sign up, go to

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day>**Sending of Vicar Gretchen (last Sunday with us is May 28)**

- On Saturday, May 20, after the 5:00 PM Worship Service, we'll have a Farewell Potluck for Vicar Gretchen. Please bring a dish to share.
- On Sunday, May 21 during Fellowship, a time of gratefulness and thanksgiving, will be offered as we think back on the last nine months together, birthing this last requirement of the Seminary process before her graduation, approval, and ordination.

If you are so moved gifts and cards will be gathered, speeches will be shared, and much love expressed for the time we have journeyed together. In addition to breakfast, delicious treats will abound.

What is Discernment?**Grades 8—12****Sunday, May 21****6:30 PM**

What is discernment? How do I make decisions about what I want to do with my life? Gather with area youth at Kountze Memorial Lutheran as Pr. Shari & Vicar Gretchen share some principles of discernment that can guide you in making all kinds of decisions. Have some time to reflect on the decisions you're facing. Talk with peers about their decisions and how discernment figures in. We'll close our time with the 7:30 PM Omaha-area Compline Worship together. Come check it out!

Compline**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church****Service of Ancient Chant and Motets****Sunday, May 21, 7:30 PM**

Please join us for a special evening featuring the sacred service of Compline. Amidst the beauty of the candlelit sanctuary, the Schola Cantorum from Lincoln's First Plymouth Church will share a short service of meditative chants and hymns. The service of Compline has been sung for hundreds of years and offers singers and listeners a unique and special space for contemplation and communion with God.

Summer Confirmation

Did Confirmation pass you by, or do you want to continue learning? We'll have a program of 5 meetings this summer for those in 9th grade and above. We will meet in the Fellowship Lounge at noon on the following Wednesdays:

- The Ten Commandments – May 31
- The Creeds – June 14
- The Lord's Prayer – June 28
- Worship/Sacraments July 19
- Discipleship -August 16

We will plan for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, August 26.

Please call the church office to sign up or e-mail shari@kmlchurch.org if interested in participating.

Vacation Bible School**Welcomes all Superheros!****Held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N 93rd St)****Sunday, June 11 - Wednesday, June 14****5:30 to 8:00 PM**

We will be learning about Superheros of the Bible, how God provided for them, and how those heroes then furthered God's mission. We all know that Superheros are stronger in groups! We will be joining several other Omaha area churches for fun, fellowship, and learning together. We hope to see all of you there for a SUPER good time. Please register here: <https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

KMLC Camp Week**Carol Joy Holling Camp****June 18 – 23**

You can sign up for any week, but those who want to attend a week of camp with others from the church can be directed to this time. Due to funding set up through a gift for Christian Education, KMLC will pay for youth attending Carol Joy Holling Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org> and select the REGISTER. There is a three-step process of registering on Ultracamp, choosing a session, pay deposit and complete registration. On the third step select, "Pay items in full" and then "Pay by Check/Money Order". Then send a copy of this statement to shari@kmlchurch.org and we will take care of the rest. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, and register today!

Attendance & Giving**Saturday: 37****Sunday: 9:00: 164 11:00: 87****Total: 288****Streaming: 91****Pantry Guests Served: 1027 (inc. 439 children)****Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16****Offering:**

\$14,109.36 (Regular) \$7,196.99 (Specials)

\$1,487.66 (Debt Reduction)

Learning who God is through Jesus.

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

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Colossians 1:15-23	The supremacy of Christ
Thursday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Friday	John 3:16-21	God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit



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Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" **John 14:9 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, help us to see your reign of power and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, with this food we see your goodness. We thank you that you have made of us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own people. Amen. (1 Peter 2:3 and 9)

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)

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

- How would you describe God to someone?
- Where does your understanding of God come from?

Read: John 14:1-14.

John 1:18 states, "No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." This foundational theme in the Gospel of John is reintroduced in John 14:9: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Society describes God in categories like all powerful and all wise. In Jesus we see a God who deeply wants a relationship with us and therefore Jesus has prepared an eternal dwelling place for us. In Jesus we see the God who brings joy to a wedding, heals the sick, and gives sight to the blind. We also see the one who is the Good Shepherd, bends over to clean dirty feet, and goes to the cross to die for us. Like Philip, we will never fully grasp who Jesus is for us, but in Jesus we see the God who never gives up on us, even when we deny our Lord out of ignorance or fear. Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (v. 6). He takes truth to be more than facts but a relationship to God filled with love and mercy. That's the path to real life now and always.

Discuss: What does the life of Jesus tell you about God?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, may our lives point to your way, your truth and your life filled with grace and mercy through Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others that they may know the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus?

1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "a living stone" and Jesus' followers "like living stones" to be "built into a spiritual house." Gather some smooth stones. Paint a cross on a large one and names of family and friends on smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the large one in a visible place in your home. As you continue reading the Gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. After reading, look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21