

# 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)

March 6, 2024

6:30 PM

### LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE

#### PRELUDE

*(stand)*

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
- ☞ Amen.
- ☞ Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

- ☞ God, our rock and refuge,
- ☞ we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.
- ☞ Hear this flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.
- ☞ Amen.

- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Neighbor to all people,  
**C** you call us into human communities to serve and be served by one another. Open our hearts to the needs of all our neighbors, and teach us to recognize the gifts you have given each of us to use in service to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.  
**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

### GOSPEL

**Mark 2:1-12**

**W**hen he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup>At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'?" <sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home. <sup>12</sup>And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

### SERMON

*Pastor Hall*

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS 1004



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God of mercy,  
**C** hold us in love.

## 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 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.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

**P** The creator who fashions us together with all things,  
the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community,  
the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints,  
one God, † bless you now and always.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN

*Now It Is Evening*

ELW 572

*(Sung to the tune of Morning Has Broken ELW 556)*

**1** Now it is evening: lights of the city  
bid us remember Christ is our light.  
Many are lonely, who will be neighbor?  
Where there is caring, Christ is our light.

**3** Now it is evening: little ones sleeping  
bid us remember Christ is our peace.  
Some are neglected, who will be neighbor?  
Where there is caring, Christ is our peace.

**2** Now it is evening: food on the table  
bids us remember Christ is our life.  
Many are hungry, who will be neighbor?  
Where there is sharing, Christ is our life.

**4** Now it is evening: here in our meeting  
may we remember Christ is our friend.  
Some may be strangers, who will be neighbor?  
Where there's a welcome, Christ is our friend.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God!

*All are welcome to come forward and light a candle.*

*You may kneel for prayer at the railing, pray at your seat, or pray at the foot of the cross.*

*You may also come forward to pray with a Pastor.*

*Depart in Silence*

† † †

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