

# 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

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

March 20, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT



*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Holy One,

**C** we confess that we have wandered far from you:

**we have not trusted your promises,**

**we have ignored your prophets in our own day,**

**we have squandered our inheritance of grace,**

**we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

**Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you.**

**Teach us to follow in your ways,**

**assure us again of your love,**

**and help us to love our neighbor.**

**Amen.**

**P** Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love.

In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

**C** Amen.



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
 2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
 3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—  
 lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—  
 quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
 Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.  
 Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



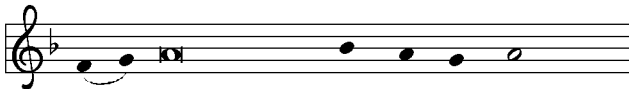
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ And also with you.

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



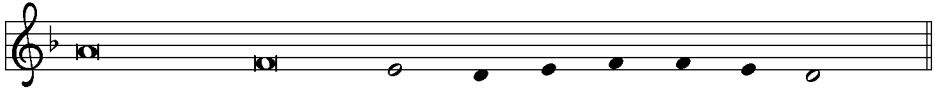
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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 ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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.

## GLORIA



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Eternal God,

☑ **your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

**H**o, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and **H**eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

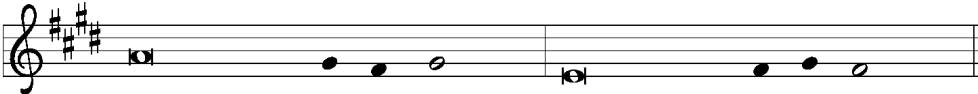
<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 63:1-8

(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold** print)



<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eager-<sup>1</sup>ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there<sup>1</sup> is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your<sup>1</sup> holy place,  
that I might behold your power<sup>1</sup> and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than<sup>1</sup> life itself;  
my lips shall<sup>1</sup> give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long<sup>1</sup> as I live  
and lift up my hands<sup>1</sup> in your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the rich-<sup>1</sup>est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with<sup>1</sup> joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you up-<sup>1</sup>on my bed,  
and meditate on you in<sup>1</sup> the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "*The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.*" <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 160b

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

S 160b

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 13:1-9**

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

**A**t that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Duminy*

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Restore In Us, O God”*

**ELW 328**

**1** **Restore in us, O God,  
the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts,  
and all our sins remove.**

**3** **Bring us, O Christ, to share  
the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life  
that death cannot destroy.**

**2** **O Spirit, wake in us  
the wonder of your pow’r;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives  
like springtime bud and flow’r.**

**4** **Three-personed God, fulfill  
the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends,  
may see you face to face.**



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us his 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Response:** **P** Merciful God,  
**C** receive our prayer.

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

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Kimberly Nick, niece of Betty Callies, Norma Pafford, John Waterman, Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, 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; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

## **WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **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. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!*



### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*“I Choose You”*

Deborah Govenor

When I am weak and heavy laden, Christ comes to me and I can hear Him say, “Lean on me. I am your refuge. Trust in me and do not be afraid.”

I choose you to be my beloved. I choose you to be my joy.  
I choose you to live with me forever. I choose you. I choose you.

When days are dark and night seems endless. When I am lost and cannot find my way. Christ is my light, my hope, my comfort. I call on Him and then I hear Him say,

I choose you to be my beloved. I choose you to be my joy.  
I choose you to live with me forever. I choose you. I choose you.

I choose you to be my beloved. I choose you to be my joy.  
I choose you to live with me forever. I choose you. I choose you.

### **THE TABLE IS PREPARED**

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Lord Jesus Think on Me”*

ELW 599 vs 1&3



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Extravagant God,
- C** you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE FOR LENT

- P** 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels. With the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en 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.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

...be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

**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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Here is food and drink for the journey.

**C** We take and will be filled.

## 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. A - men.

(sit)

## 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 you may then dip it in the wine.*

*Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*“O Living Bread from Heaven”*

**ELW 542**

**1 O living Bread from heaven,  
how well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given  
have filled my heart with rest.  
O wondrous food of blessing!  
O cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
in thankful song o'er flows.**

**2 My Savior, you have led me  
within your holiest place,  
and here yourself have fed me  
with treasures of your grace;  
for you have freely given  
what earth could never buy,  
the bread of life from heaven,  
that now I shall not die.**

**3 You gave me all I wanted;  
this food can death destroy.  
And you have freely granted  
the cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit  
the favor you have shown;  
and all my soul and spirit  
bow down before your throne.**

**4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened  
with heav'nly food, while here  
my course on earth is lengthened,  
to serve you, free from fear;  
and bring me home to praise you  
where none can peace destroy,  
where I will ever raise you  
glad songs in endless joy.**

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr.  
Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.

**1 Break now the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as once you broke the loaves beside the  
sea.  
Beyond the sacred page  
I seek you, Lord;  
my spirit waits for you,  
O living Word.**

**2 Bless your own word of truth,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease,  
all fetters fall;  
and I shall find my peace,  
my All-in-All!**

**3 You are the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
your holy word the truth that rescues me.  
Give me to eat and live  
with you above;  
teach me to love your truth,  
for you are love.**

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt.

*“Here Is Bread”*

**1 Here is bread, here is wine,  
Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Break the bread, taste the wine,  
Christ is with us here.**

**2 Here is grace, here is peace,  
Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Know his grace, find his peace,  
feast on Jesus here.**

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

**In this bread there is healing,  
in this cup is life forever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit,  
Christ is with us here.**

**3 Here we are, joined in one,  
Christ is with us, he is with us.  
We’ll proclaim till he comes  
Jesus crucified.**

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950  
Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin.  
by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

(stand)

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Blessed Jesus,

**G** in the rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

**P** You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”*

ELW 534 vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Savior, again to your dear name we raise  
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,  
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.
- 2 Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;  
with you began, with you shall end the day;  
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
that in this house have called upon your name.
- 4 Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,  
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;  
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, alt.

### DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Mark Jones, *organist*



## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
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
Kayla Slaughter	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

March 19 & 20, 2022

*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.*

### **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. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

### **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 9 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 or text your e-mail address to 22828.

### **Today at Kountze**

#### **Sharing of the Peace**

As we return to worship practices, we encourage you to begin again sharing the peace in a way that is comfortable for you. Please be mindful that your way might not be for everyone. Handshakes, elbow or fist bump, a bow, a nod, a wave all work. Take this time to connect with others in a way that allows for the Peace of Christ to flow through and amongst us.

#### **Children's Choir Ages K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Barb Carlsen is leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

#### **Sunday School**

##### **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

#### **Youth Forum**

##### **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

All 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!  
This Sunday—Boundless Bible Study

#### **Adult Forum**

##### **Sunday, 10:10**

**This Sunday**—Peacemaking

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall

#### **Bowls, Cake Pans, etc.**

We are so grateful for the good food that is brought to the church and shared for our important meals. We now find ourselves with many leftover bowls, cake pans, etc. With just so much storage space, we are in need of the bowls

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

and pans that are here to be picked up and returned to their homes. You will find these "leftovers" right outside the north office door. We appreciate your help in taking these back home in the next few weeks.

## Usher Sign-up for Holy Week and Easter

If you will be available during Holy Week and Easter, we could use your help as Ushers. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Nave for you to add your name according to your availability. Thanks for serving in this way!

---

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### March 20 Sunday

Lent 3  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

### March 21 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board  
A & B Rooms

### March 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM Circle 3

### March 23 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:30 PM Lenten Dinner  
6:30 PM Worship

### March 24 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### March 25 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### March 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### March 27 Sunday

Lent 4  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM First Communion Class  
7:30 PM Compline Service

---

## Sunday School Talking Points

Although they may not be able to name it, children understand what temptation is, and have plenty of experience with it. Last week we learned about Jesus' baptism and touched upon his 40 days in the wilderness. This week, we will expand on those 40 days, and learn more about how Jesus was tempted during that time and how we can live by his example when it comes to temptation. This week, ask your children to explain what temptation means to them and ask what tempts them in their lives. Discuss how God can help them avoid temptations. Have your children retell the lesson and ask what part of the story is most meaningful to them. As we are in the fourth part of the "Faces of Easter" lesson, have the children list each part of Jesus' life we have covered. What story is most meaningful to them?

## First Communion

### Sundays, March 27 & April 3

**12:15 PM**

A good guide for determining when your children are ready to receive Communion is when they begin to ask about receiving it during the liturgy.

Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 PM. The course is geared toward second graders but all ages are welcome; Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org).

## Compline – A Lenten Offering

### Held at Kountze Memorial Church Sunday, March 27, 7:30 PM

Meditation and contemplation, folded in prayer, chant, and music are the essence of Compline – one of the monastic prayer services of the Christian Church, and the last religious observance (office) sung at the end of the day. The entire service will be sung, unaccompanied, by a small group of liturgical musicians (schola) from First-Plymouth Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, on behalf of the congregation. Compline provides worshipers the time and space for silence, meditation, and mystic communion with the Divine. We welcome you to join us for this half hour, unique time, set apart for prayerful worship. Please enter the sanctuary reverently, in silent prayer, through our 4 main doors at the front of the church.

## Spring Spruce-Up

### Saturday, April 9

**9:00 AM -12:00 PM**

### (Lunch Provided)

All children, families, singles, everyone of all ages, are invited to a Kountze spring spruce-up. It's time to give our beautiful facility some TLC as we head into Holy week. With a 52,000 sq. ft. building, it's hard for the staff to do everything, so once in a while we need to rally the troops and pitch in and do some deep cleaning, polishing, dusting, etc. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 9:00 AM where you can pick from a list of areas that need some attention. Dusters, furniture polish, buckets, towels, etc. will be provided but if you have a favorite, please bring it. At noon we will return to the Fellowship Hall and

enjoy lunch before departing. So that we can make sure we have enough food please call the office or email Jim (jim@kmlchurch.org) if you plan on attending.

### Update on our Refugee Family

A fifth son has joined the Bowari family! His name is Murad. Thank you to those of you who have signed up to help deliver meals to the family while the Mom, Bibi Hawa, is recuperating. A reminder, for now any prepared meals need to come from the Afghan restaurant due to the dietary restrictions of the family. If you're interested in helping with this, please sign-up for a time to bring a meal at: <https://bit.ly/BowariFamily> You'll get an email response with details about how to order and where to pick-up a prepared meal, and a map to where the Bowari family lives. Although the family does not speak English, they are good at understanding gestures and they are learning. Through an interpreter they asked me to express their most sincere gratitude to Kountze for your amazing support and generosity!



### Diaper Drive

We are having a diaper drive for the Bowari family. They need diapers size 1 and up (no newborn sizes). If you would like to provide diapers, please bring them to church and put them in the large brown box next to the box for the Pantry box. Your donations will be appreciated.

### Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Links to our giving page and Lutheran Disaster Response can be found in the Friday e-news or a checked marked "Eastern Europe Crisis Response can be given to Kountze Memorial and we will make sure it gets to the right place. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

### Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you for your donations of hats and gloves for our Pantry guests! Even in this mild weather they were greatly needed and appreciated. In March, we are in need of toilet paper and toothbrushes. As always, we need volunteers!

### Pantry Volunteers Needed:

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM  
Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer using the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>



### Our Lenten Focus

Worship times each Wednesday of Lent are at 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Music will be provided at both service.

The following five weeks, For The Peace of the Whole World exploring our call to Just Peacemaking will be our theme. Each week we will consider a specific component in the formation of a just peace theology.

**March 23** Justice

**March 30** Love Your Enemies

**April 6** Peace

It is the hope you will consider gathering in community and worship for these times, to grow and deepen our faith, through the Lent season.

### Lenten Meals

**Lunch Served 11:00 - Noon**

**Supper served 5:30 - 6:30 PM**

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert.

Meals are free will offering.

### Menu for March 23

Choice of lasagna soup or chicken noodle soup and garlic cheese bread

If you would like to help in the kitchen, please contact Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org)

### Attendance & Giving

**Saturday:** 31

**Sunday: 9:00:** 136 **11:00:** 67

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 32 **6:30:** 37

**Total:** 303

**Streaming:** 78

**Cox Cable:** 159

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1202 (inc. 299 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 17

**Offering:**

\$18,842.00 (Regular)      \$4,688.10 (Specials)

\$767.00 (Debt Reduction)

*To repent is to seek and thirst for God.*



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

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	Luke 12:54-59	Knowing what to do
Thursday	1 Chronicles 16:8-13	David's psalm of thanksgiving
Friday	Acts 3:17-26	Peter speaks in the temple
Saturday	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father

© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.  
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

*O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1 (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, give us a thirst for your presence in our lives and world that we may live in peace and confidence through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Loving God, may this food remind us that you promise us a feast that costs us nothing and shows your great love for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Isaiah 55:1)

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God give you a repentant heart, peace, and joy.

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

- How would you describe what life is like in today's world?
- What do you think God sees that is lacking in the world today?

*Read:* Luke 13:1-9.

Lent is a season of repentance. Repentance is not first and foremost a moral change on our part; it is a changed way of seeing that influences one's actions. Jesus sees human tragedies caused by tyrants [like Pilate] or by accidents [like a tower that falls on people] as part of life. Life is fragile for lots of reasons. To see the world as Jesus sees it is to see the need for all of us to repent, that is, to turn to God and see God's care for us in the world. To repent is to turn toward God. It is to turn away from a thirst for acceptance from others, power, prestige, or wealth. The life of repentance Jesus wants for us bears the fruit of God's ways that is full of mercy and forgiveness (see Isaiah 55:7).

*Discuss:* How does knowing of God's care for us change your way of thinking and behaving in the world?

*Pray:* **Forgiving God, help us to see as you see and to desire what you desire through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how does repentance influence your actions towards others?

Lent is a time to focus on prayer. When reading a newspaper or watching the news, we learn about tragedies and sad events happening in the world. After reading or seeing the news this week, sit in silence and pray for those situations and the people involved. Light a candle and say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.** The Bible gives us models for praying. Close by reading Psalm 63:1-8 as a prayer.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32