

# 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)

April 21, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY in EASTER



*The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

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

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C** **Amen.**

- P** Look, here is water!

**C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

- P** Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

- P** At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

- P** Look, here is water!

**C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

- 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!
- 2 Praise we Christ, whose love divine  
gives his sacred blood for wine,  
gives his body for the feast—  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest. 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!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt.

### 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.

### HYMN OF PRAISE

Choir



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



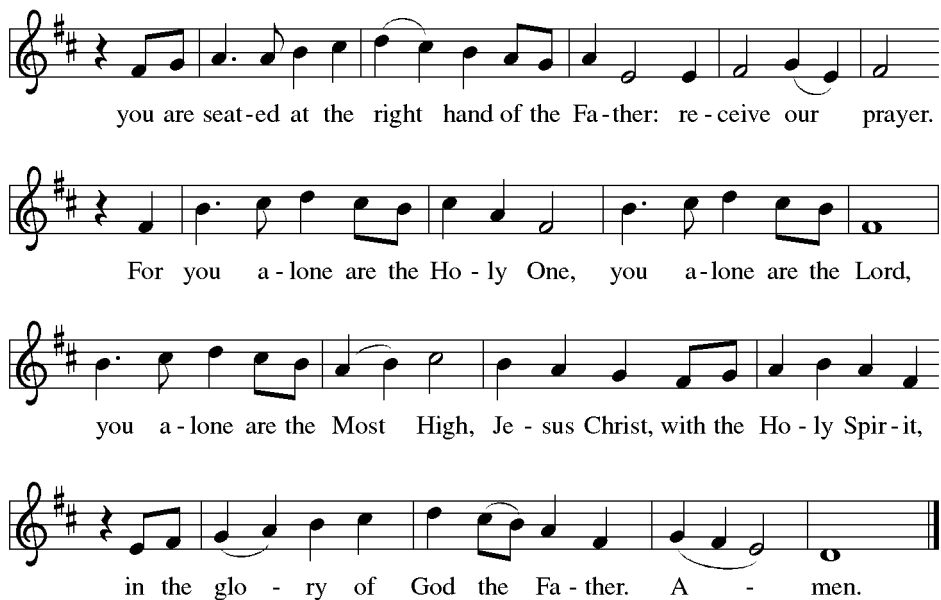
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



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

- ☞ O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep,
- ☛ you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

**T**he next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

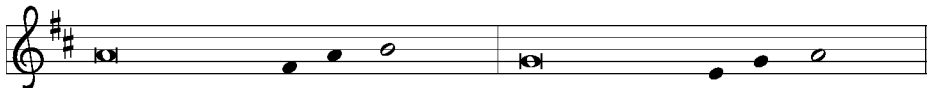
<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 23

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



<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup>side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my<sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>1</sup> comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever.**

## SECOND READING

**1 John 3:16-24**

*Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments.*

**W**e know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

☐ 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.

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

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 10:11-18**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 436*

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

Jesus said: <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** 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 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*

**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
 "Come unto me and rest;  
 lay down, O weary one, lay down  
 your head upon my breast."  
 I came to Jesus as I was,  
 so weary, worn, and sad;  
 I found in him a resting-place,  
 and he has made me glad.**

**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
 "Behold, I freely give  
 the living water, thirsty one;  
 stoop down and drink and live."  
 I came to Jesus, and I drank  
 of that life-giving stream;  
 my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
 and now I live in him.**

**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
 "I am this dark world's light;  
 look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
 and all your day be bright."  
 I looked to Jesus, and I found  
 in him my star, my sun;  
 and in that light of life I'll walk  
 till trav'ling days are done.**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

**ORDER OF SAINT JOHN COMMISSIONING (11:00 AM)**

**P** The following people have been enrolled in the Order of Saint John to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and mutual mission as a congregation.

**9:00 AM**

Bently Baker  
 Carson Burton  
 Amanda Groenjes  
 John Groenjes  
 Lilly Kassal  
 Jane Kidder  
 Jacob Weiland

**11:00 AM**

Neely Edwards  
 Sheyenne Glasgow  
 Mia Valquier  
 Daisy Wynard  
 Alexis Yates  
 Michaela Yates

**Sponsors**

Jill Gittler  
 Jeff Perkins  
 Robin Perkins

*(rise in body or spirit)*

- P** People of God, I ask you:  
 Will you support these young men and women, members of the Order of Saint John, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?
- C** **We will, and we ask God to help us.**



**P** I now declare you installed members of the Order of Saint John of this congregation. Almighty God bless you and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**C** Amen.

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    **P** God of grace,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

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

**Thanksgiving:** for the marriage of Ryan and Danielle Fleming (4/20/2024)

**Prayers This Week:** Albert Grage, Jane Kidder, Donna Moessner, Vinn Stephens, Joyce Wachal

**On-going Care:** Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Barb Carlsen, Shirley Dietrich, Martha Eckmann, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Jim Perkins, Marce Picha, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Gary Westerman, Deb Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston; Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens, and grandson of Vinn Stephens

**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; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, 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.  
**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 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**

*Song of the Shepherd*

by Douglas Nolan

(rise in body or spirit)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Christ Is Living*

ACS 934 vs. 1 & 3



1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor - row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.  
3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic - t'ry; sin has lost its poi - son sting.



Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev - 'ry pow'r.  
Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.



Why then seek the liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?  
For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"



Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.  
Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Risen One,

**C** you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures of music with lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff also has two measures with lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has two measures with lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has two measures with lyrics 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm.

## PREFACE FOR EASTER

### 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.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures of music with lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has two measures with lyrics 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff has two measures with lyrics 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff has two measures with lyrics 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

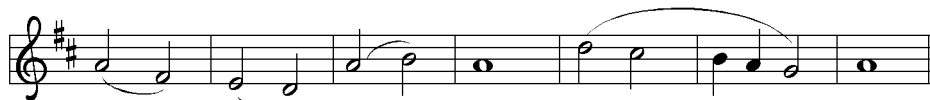
- ☐ Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

☐ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

☐ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- ☐ With your holy ones ... we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

☐ **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

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

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

## AGNUS DEI



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



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



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



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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come and eat at God's table.

☑ The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

(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.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!<br/>Now is the triumph of our king!<br/>To all the world glad news we bring:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;<br/>death's mighty stone is rolled away;<br/>let all the world rejoice and say:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> | <p><b>3 Praise we in songs of victory<br/>that love, that life, which cannot die,<br/>and sing with hearts uplifted high:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,<br/>and sing today with one accord,<br/>the life laid down, the life restored:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> |
|--|--|

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.  
Text © 1952, ren. 1986 Hymns Ancient & Modern, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

ELW 620

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds<br/>in a believer's ear!<br/>It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,<br/>and drives away all fear.</b></p> <p><b>2 It makes the wounded spirit whole<br/>and calms the heart's unrest;<br/>'tis manna to the hungry soul<br/>and to the weary, rest.</b></p> <p><b>3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,<br/>my shield and hiding place;<br/>my never-failing treasury, filled<br/>with boundless stores of grace.</b></p> | <p><b>4 By thee my prayers acceptance gain<br/>although with sin defiled.<br/>The devil charges me in vain,<br/>and I am owned a child.</b></p> <p><b>5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,<br/>my prophet, priest, and king,<br/>my Lord, my life, my way, my end,<br/>accept the praise I bring.</b></p> <p><b>6 How weak the effort of my heart,<br/>how cold my warmest thought;<br/>but when I see thee as thou art,<br/>I'll praise thee as I ought.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7 Till then I would thy love proclaim<br/>with every fleeting breath;<br/>and may the music of thy name<br/>refresh my soul in death!</b></p> |
|---|---|

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- ☞** Shepherding God,  
**☞** you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☛ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia**

☞ Almighty God:

The Source of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

ELW 452

**1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.**

**2 To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.**

**5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.**

**3 There is one body and one hope,  
one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
one God who made us all.**

**4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.**

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984  
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

☞ Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

☛ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

April 20 & 21, 2024

*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 the marriage of Danielle Barrett and Ryan Fleming given by Ron & Pam Brown; in memory of Dean Anderson, Sr. given by his wife, Darlene.

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

### Kountze Café

**9:30—11:00 AM**

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

### Easter Book Group Continues

**Sundays in April**

**12:30 PM**

**Place: KMLC/Kountze Commons Link**

We are reading & discussing the book *The Everyday Advocate: Living Out Your Calling to Social Justice* by Ross Murray. The group will meet on Sunday afternoons in April. Ross Murray was the featured speaker at the annual Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly last fall. He is an ordained deacon in the ELCA, vice president at the GLAAD Media Institute, and the founding director of the Naming Project, a faith-based youth ministry and summer camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies. Feel free to bring a sack lunch.

### Faith Formation

#### Children's Choir

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

**Grades K-6**

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

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Sunday School

10:10 AM

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

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 (childcare for those too old for the nursery).

### Youth Forum

10:10 AM

#### Grades 7—12

#### Lower Level Youth Room

Grab your breakfast and join us for time to grow our relationships with God and each other

**This Week:** “Created to Be” Bible Study

**Next Week:** Graduation Celebration

### Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

**This Week:** The Creed: “He Ascended into Heaven”

**Next Week:** Graduation Celebration

### New Member Class Continues

April 21

10:15 AM

We will welcome new members on Sunday, May 5 (please note date change).

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### April 21 Sunday

Easter 4

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-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

### April 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### April 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

7:30 PM Youth Committee

### April 24 Wednesday

April 24—27 SHAREOmaha

Do Good Days

9:00 AM Sewing Group (Extra Day)

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy's

### April 25 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:30 PM Christian Education

### April 26 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 27 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### April 28 Sunday

Easter 5

Quilt Blessing & Recognition of Graduates

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-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Classes Continue

Wednesdays in April

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

### Sewing Group (Extra Date)

Wednesday, April 24

9:00 AM

The sewing group will be meeting an extra morning this month. If you can hold a needle and tie your shoes (not at the same time), you can help with the quilts they make. Please feel free to join them.

### Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Trivia

8437 West Center Rd

Trivia - but actually, it's Music Bingo!

Join in and be a part of the OLYA Music Bingo team in this social outing! Appetizers provided. RSVP or learn more:

Text: 361-571-7636 (Greta)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omahalutheranyoungadults>

Email: [OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com](mailto:OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com)

### SHAREOmaha Do Good Days

April 24-27

Use [SHAREomaha.org](http://SHAREomaha.org) to connect to volunteering opportunities that fit your passions, schedule, skills, and more. You don't have to wait to do good. Start exploring [volunteer opportunities](#) today so nonprofits know they can count on your support during Do Good Days. Volunteers have value — approximately \$32/hour. If you can't do good during Do Good Days, give good! [Give \\$32 to your favorite causes](#) here at [SHAREomaha.org](http://SHAREomaha.org); it is a one-stop shop for donating to multiple organizations at once.

## Honoring All Graduates

**Sunday, April 28**

**9 or 11 AM**

**Reception: 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

If you have graduated in the past year or will graduate this spring, please let us know. On April 28 we will uplift the names of all who are celebrating a graduation during the year. Call the church office at 402-341-7761 or email [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org), so we can celebrate with you.

A Quilt Blessing for high school graduates will take place on that date. There will also be a reception of Congratulations and Celebration in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. If you forget, we have some that you can write on at the Welcome Desk. A listing of all graduates will be in the May Good News.

## High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

**Sunday, April 28**

**9 or 11 AM**

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place on April 28 from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. High School Seniors are Neeley Edwards, Jane Kidder, Lawton Rees, Mia Valquier, and Travis Wynard.

## Summer Bible Camp at Carol Joy Holling

If you didn't get a chance to register for camp by the Early Bird pricing deadline (January 31), Kountze Memorial will still cover the cost of the Early Bird pricing, but you will need to pay the additional cost. Kountze Camp Week is June 16-21, but you can attend camp whenever it is convenient for you. Check out the schedule for the different camp opportunities for grades K-12 as well as day camps and leadership training for high school-age youth and Special Needs camps at

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

- In order for the church to pay the fee, choose
- to mail your payment,
- select "Pay items in Full"
- then "Pay by Check/Money Order"
- Email a copy of the receipt to [shari@kmlchurch.org](mailto:shari@kmlchurch.org)

We will then submit the Early Bird portion of the payment on behalf of your youth. You'll need to mail in your portion. If you have any questions, please reach out to church staff. To register go to: <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/register>

## Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar with a Cajun Flair\* & Bingo Night

**Sunday, May 5**

**4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Cost: Free-will Donation**

**\*Please Note: We will be serving "normal" tacos and have Cajun toppings you can add if you wish.**

Support our youth and young adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. We'll play different forms of BINGO with prizes beginning at 5:15 PM. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend or two! Reservations are not necessary but will help with planning the meal. Please sign

up at the Welcome Desk to let us know you'll be attending. You won't want to miss this one! **Special Request:** if you have gift cards you don't plan to use and would like to share, please give them to Pr. Shari to use as BINGO prizes. Thanks.

## Ascension Day Liturgy

**Thursday, May 9**

**6:30 PM**

**Held at Kountze Memorial**

Kountze Memorial will continue it's tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. This year, we will be hosting the liturgy. Please mark your calendars for this festive Eucharist and invite a friend! Everyone is welcome. If you would be willing to be an Usher for the evening, please contact Jim Smejkal ([jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org)) or call the church office.

## Camp Firelight VBS

**St. Timothy's Church ( 510 N 93<sup>rd</sup> St)**

**July 8-11**

**5:15 PM: Family Dinner**

**6—8 PM: Class**

Have an adventure with God this summer! Make plans now to attend VBS. Registration is open now to register for VBS youth and volunteers. Sign up with the following link:

<https://kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Volunteer opportunities include kitchen clean up, teachers, assistants, and more. We would love to see you there!

## Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you to everyone who donated toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for our guests at the Kountze Food Pantry. Our goal is to always have these items available along with soap and razors. In April, we are collecting disposable razors and shaving cream or foam. Currently the greatest and most urgent need is for volunteers. A small group of dedicated faithful are receiving, moving and restocking almost 10,000 lbs. of goods every Monday morning. If you or anyone you know can assist us in our mission of "Feeding the Poor, in Christ's Name", please sign up at the link below:

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

### Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, 4/18/2024—Wednesday, 4/24/2024**

**Saturday: 47**

**Sunday: 9:00: 134 11:00: 71**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 10 6:30: 0**

**Streaming: 42**

**Pantry Guests Served: 1017 (inc. 369 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14**

**Offering:**

\$10,970.32 (Regular) \$1,945.55 (Specials)

\$332.00 (Debt Reduction)

*The Good Shepherd comes with power to love.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                       |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 10:11-18         | The Good Shepherd                 |
| Monday    | Acts 4:5-12           | Peter and John before the council |
| Tuesday   | 1 John 3:16-24        | Love one another                  |
| Wednesday | Luke 15:1-7           | Parable of the lost sheep         |
| Thursday  | Ezekiel 34:11-16      | God, the true shepherd            |
| Friday    | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | The resurrection of Christ        |
| Saturday  | Psalm 23              | The Lord is my shepherd           |
| Sunday    | John 15:1-8           | Jesus the true vine               |



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*  
**Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Shepherding God, we thank you that your care for us is never ending and filled with your abundant goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, just as you are with us and protect us each day like a good shepherd, we thank you for feeding us with this food, a sign of your abundant love. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, give you comfort and peace.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Talk or think about a time you experienced fear or anxiety.
- How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, comfort and protect you during fearful times?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 10:11-18.

The focus in John 10 on being the good shepherd is directly related to Jesus healing the man born blind in John 9. The man born blind was cast out of the synagogue, out of the religious community, out of a protective sheepfold. Jesus as the good shepherd knows us and loves us enough to lay down his life for us. Jesus does not abandon us or cast us out. Unlike the disinterest of a hired hand who runs away when our needs are the greatest, Jesus cares for us as those who need the protection of a shepherd. This is the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has power and he uses that power to care for us and to give us the abundant life, the life overflowing with goodness (John 10:10). All of this power to love, to give us life overflowing with goodness and abundance, comes not from the abusive power of Pharisees, synagogues, or any disinterested individuals or institutions, but from the divine. This is the command that Jesus has received from God and passes on to us, the command to love sacrificially.

*Discuss:* When has your life been blessed by the sacrificial love of another?

*Pray:* **Loving God, help us to know that we are not abandoned in our time of need, but blessed with overflowing love through the power and grace of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give sacrificially to someone in need?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Both readings from John 10 and Psalm 23 follow the theme of shepherd. Draw the shape of a sheep on a sheet of paper. Write Jesus in the center of the shape and then words you would use to describe a good shepherd. Think or talk about what the words you wrote mean to you. Finish with prayer using the words from Psalm 23:6 as a reminder of God's comfort: **You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD. Amen.** (CEV)

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8