

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
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April 28, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in EASTER  
GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY



*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*  
The Fort Calhoun High School Brass Quintet  
Aaron Duros & Cody Rogers, *trumpets*  
Edward Lautrup, *French horn*  
Johnathon Schwarte, *trombone*  
Michael Maxon, *tuba*

## 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. Miram 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 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
 Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
 Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
 Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center  
 telling the story to open our eyes;  
 breaking our bread, giving us glory:  
 Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.  
*Refrain*

*Refrain*

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
 Give God the glory! Alleluia!

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;  
 life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
 heaven to earth, Christ to the people,  
 gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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

**P** O God,

**C** you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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

Acts 8:26-40

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 510*

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

**A**n angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship<sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”<sup>31</sup> He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

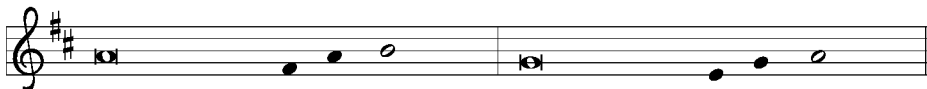
<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 22:25-31

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



<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

**who rules o- | ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!”

### SECOND READING

### 1 John 4:7-21

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

**B**eloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

### 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 15:1-8**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 452*

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**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 Duminy*

*(rise is body or spirit)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*

**ELW 449**

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.  
Hallelujah!**
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,  
as living members of our Savior Christ.  
Hallelujah!**
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.  
Hallelujah!**
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing:  
Hallelujah!**

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
Text © John B. Geyer

(sit)

## CELEBRATION OF 2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- Ⓐ Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their faith journey. As the names of our 2024 graduates are read, we ask that they, who are present, along with their parents and families, please come forward.

Neely Edwards  
Mia Valquier

Jane Kidder  
Travis Wynard

Lawton Rees

- Ⓐ Parents, in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. In their baptisms, sacred promises were made. As parents of these young men and women, it was part of your calling to see that those sacred promises were kept:

To live with them among God's faithful people  
To bring them to the word of God and the Holy Supper  
To nurture them in faith and prayer

You have fulfilled those promises. We now ask you to covenant with this congregation to continue to support the faith journey of these young men and women. As the spirit gives you ability, do you intend to support and routinely lift your children up in prayer? If so answer, *"I do and I ask God to help and guide me."*

*Parents:* I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

- Ⓐ Congregation, do you promise to support and encourage these parents in the keeping of these sacred promises? If so, answer, *"We will with God's help and guidance."*

Ⓒ **We will with God's help and guidance.**

- Ⓐ Graduates, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,  
To come to the word of God and the Holy Supper,  
To strive to grow in faith and prayer, so that, you might trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace in all the world  
If so, answer, *"I do and I ask God to help and guide me."*

*Graduates:* I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

### **PRAYER (graduates kneel)**

- Ⓐ Let us pray: Dear God of creation, we ask for your blessing on these young people as they enter a new period in their lives of faith. Bless them and grant them your gifts: confirm their faith, guide their lives, give them strength in serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to eternal life. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ⓒ **Amen.**



## PRESENTATION OF QUILTS

- ☐ The members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church present you, our high school graduates, with a symbol of the love we have for you. Each stitch of these quilts represents the love that God has given us to share with one another. At this time, we ask your parents to take these quilts and place them around you. They are symbolic of our congregation's commitment to support and equip you in carrying out the promises made in baptism.

*(Parents wrap the quilts around their children's shoulders)*

## PRAYER

- ☐ Let us pray:
- ☑ **We come this day before you, O God, to bless you and thank you for the gifts you give us. You have given our lives meaning and calling. Through you, we receive the gifts of love, joy, and forgiveness. We pray that these quilts will be a reminder of the warmth of family, this faith community, and of your never-failing love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

*(graduates stand and face the congregation)*

- ☐ I present to the congregation, our 2024 high school graduates and their families.
- ☐ Depart in Christ's peace.

## THE NICENE CREED

- ☑ **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)*

**Sympathy:** for the family and friends of Martha Eckmann

**Prayers this week:** Joyce Wachal

**On-going Care:** Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Barb Carlson, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Albert Grage, 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, Vinn Stephens, 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

*Come Proclaim the Victory*

by Joseph Martin

(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 for 'The Great Thanksgiving' consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of lyrics, the second staff the next two lines, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the final line. The music ends with a double bar line.

## 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 for 'Sanctus' consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of lyrics, the second staff the next two lines, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the final line. The music ends with a double bar line.

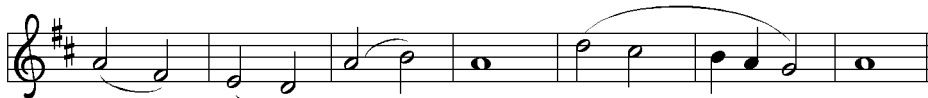
## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** 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.

- P** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. 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 ... we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**
- Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**
- For thine is the kingdom,**  
**and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI



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



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



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



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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come and eat at God's table

**C** 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.*

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- 1** Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.
- 2** With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.
- 3** Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.
- 4** Let strife among us be unknown;  
let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
be his our only peace.
- 5** Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.  
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

*Let All Things Now Living*

ELW 881

- 1** Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.
- 2** God rules all the forces:  
the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.  
Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Shepherding God,  
**C** 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

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**P** 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

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

**ELW 367 vs. 1, 3, 4**

**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!

**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!

**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!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

**P** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*  
The Fort Calhoun High School Brass Quintet  
Aaron Duros & Cody Rogers, *trumpets*  
Edward Lautrup, *French horn*  
Johnathon Schwarte, *trombone*  
Michael Maxon, *tuba*

✝   ✝   ✝



## 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 27 & 28, 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 memory of Rev. Tom & Jean Holcombe and Rev. Lavern & Marilyn Larkowski given by Neal & Ardis VonSeggen; in celebration of Dan Wolf's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday given by his wife, Karen; given by Myrna Esluer in honor of 55 years as a Kountze member and to honor all the nurses during Nurses Week

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of her dad, David Penning

### 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. 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).

### Congratulations Graduates!

Sunday, April 28

9 or 11 AM

#### Reception: 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Today we uplift the names of all who are celebrating a graduation during the year. 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. Our High School Graduates are Neely Edwards, Jane Kidder, Lawton Rees, Mia Valquier, and Travis Wynard.

### 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:** Graduation Celebration

**Next Week:** Current Events

### Adult Forum

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

**This Week:** Graduation Celebration

**Next Week:** Reception of New Members and The Creed “He Ascended”

### Easter Book Group Continues

#### Sundays in April

12:30 PM

**Place:** KMLC & Kountze Commons Link

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### April 29 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

### April 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### May 1 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### May 2 Thursday

2:00 PM Cards with Friends

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### May 3 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 4 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

Homebound Communion

### May 5 Sunday

Easter 6

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-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

4:30 PM Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar & Music Bingo

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### A Special Note of Thanks

We are grateful to all the quilt makers for your good skills and great effort in making quilts for our High School Graduates. You are appreciated for your generous, creative, and loving spirits.

### Cards with Friends

Thursday, May 2

2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

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

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 its 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) or call the church office.

## **Upcoming Youth Activity**

**Grades 7-12 and College Youth**

**Friday, May 10**

**6 PM**

You are invited to an end of the year celebration in the Link Courtyard. Hotdogs and S'mores will be provided. Games will be played. Join us! RSVP by Tuesday, May 7.

## **Baptismal Reunion**

**Sunday, May 19**

**12:15 PM**

For all who have been baptized from January 2023 to May of 2024, we invite you and your families to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch. Following the meal there will be some introductions and then a time for children to gather in spaces for care while the parents come together to explore ideas of how to bless your child within your home. We plan to send you on your way within the hour. Please RSVP with the number attending by Thursday, May 16

## **Get Ready for Camp!**

**Carol Joy Holling Camp Work Day**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

**8:00 AM - Lunch**

Carol Joy Holling Camp is in need of help to ready the camp for the more than 1,300 campers that will arrive in just a few weeks. We have been invited to help!

Individuals and groups are welcome and all skill levels are needed. They will provide breakfast starting at 8 AM and work will continue until lunch around 12:30 PM. For food planning purposes, they ask that you RSVP before May 3. For questions, contact Lisa Stirtz at LStirtz@NL0M.org or 402-944-2544. More info and register at:

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day>

## **Silent Retreat**

**Carol Joy Holling Camp**

**June 14 - 16, 2024**

During this spiritual weekend, you can expect to have scheduled times for silence, worship, walking a labyrinth, prayer, and self-reflection. Learn more or Register:

<https://www.cjhcenter.org/silent>

## **Carol Joy Holling Camp is Hiring for Their Summer Ministry Team**

If you are 18 years or older, or have completed Leadership Camp and are interested in a full-time, paid summer job with

all meals and on-site housing included, this might be the summer job for you. The Summer Ministry Team is a powerful group of young leaders who are changing the world by working hard, talking faith, and caring for others. This super team provides leadership and care for campers at Sullivan Hills Camp and Carol Joy Holling Camp. More info at: <https://www.nlom.org/smt>

## **Camp Firelight VBS**

**St. Timothy's Church ( 510 N 93rd 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!

## **Breakfast Ministry**

Our Breakfast might look a little lighter during the summer months from May 26 through September 1. We are so grateful for the Breakfast Crews and their good work since September of 2022. An encouragement for more people to offer a helping hand is needed. If you could help out once, twice, or three times during the year that would greatly aid in this ministry, especially on the 2nd Sunday for clean up or some of the crews that are often short handed.

## **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. We are still 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: 34**

**Sunday: 9:00: 131 11:00: 76**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 9 6:30: 0**

**Streaming: 35**

**Pantry Guests Served: 1041 (inc. 391 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16**

**Offering:**

\$28,352.58 (Regular) \$10,335.63 (Specials)

\$837.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Disciples lovingly accept the hospitality of others.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 John 5:1-6	Faith conquers the world
Wednesday	Romans 12:14-21	Marks of the true Christian
Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Leviticus 19:32-37	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples



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#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*So he [Peter] ordered them [Cornelius and his household] to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. Acts 10:48 (NRSV)*

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, being a guest in another person's home is not always easy to do. Give us love and courage to graciously accept the hospitality of others for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

##### Mealtimes Prayer:

Loving God, you are the host at every meal. Help me to receive your hospitality and to be open to the hospitality of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May God's steadfast love and faithfulness give you joy. (Psalm 98:3-4)

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☐ Tell or think about a memorable time when you have been a guest in someone else's home.
- ☐ In what ways do you show God's love when visiting others in their home?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Acts 10:44-48.

While Peter is speaking, he witnesses the work of the Holy Spirit that leads him to baptize Cornelius and his household. Then Peter accepts the hospitality of Cornelius, a Roman soldier (Acts 10:1-2). What would it have been like for Peter to receive food and lodging in the home of a Roman and a Gentile? It was most likely a dramatic change for Peter. It is one thing to be the host and invite someone to receive the hospitality, food, family and faith traditions of your own culture. It is quite another to be open to the cultural life of someone else. It can easily be disorienting. Will you like the food? Will you know or make adjustments to the appropriate manners expected? Will you pick up the right utensil? Will you embarrass your host or yourself? Being a guest is not easy and requires attentiveness, acceptance, and grace. That is what the church is asked to do, to be vulnerable and not in control. That is what Jesus and the Holy Spirit expect of us, too.

*Discuss:* How does your openness to someone else's hospitality show the love of God to that person?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, your kindness knows no end. Give us faith to be open to the lives and ways of others that together we may give praise to you through Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 be open to the hospitality and cultural traditions of others?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Throughout the Bible and the history of the church, singing has been a faithful way of worshiping God and expressing one's faith in God (Psalm 98). Sing or read the words of a favorite hymn. Begin your singing and reading by praying the words of Psalm 98:4: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17