

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

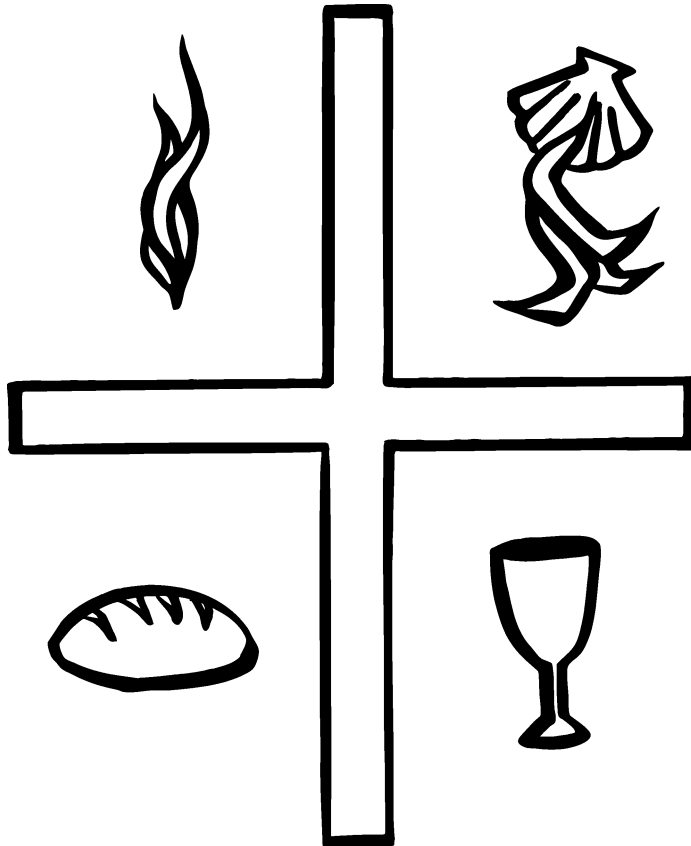
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

May 12, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY in EASTER



*The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!*



# 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** Rise, O Sun of righteousness;  
with your might creation bless.  
Shine upon your church today,  
showing all your gentle way.  
Have mercy, Lord.
- 2** Rouse our hearts from slumber deep;  
may your word within us leap.  
Give us voices to proclaim  
praises to your holy name.  
Have mercy, Lord.
- 3** Gather in your scattered flock;  
give us water from the rock.  
Bless the unity we share  
in our shepherd's loving care.  
Have mercy, Lord.
- 4** Burst the bars of stubborn pride;  
make the heav'nly pathway wide.  
Raise us up from sin and death  
with your Spirit's living breath.  
Have mercy, Lord.
- 5** Honor, praise, and glory be  
to the holy Trinity!  
May your gracious will be done:  
make us one, as you are one.  
Have mercy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958  
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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

- ☐ Gracious and glorious God,
- ☑ **you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, 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 1:15-17, 21-26

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 500*

*In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.*

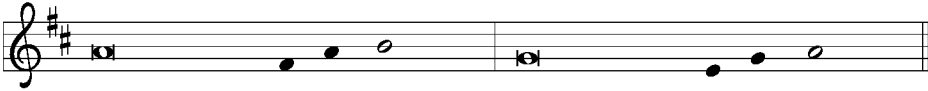
**I**n those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 1

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



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>1</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>1</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching <sup>1</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that <sup>1</sup> do not wither;

everything they <sup>1</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so <sup>1</sup> with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind <sup>1</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>1</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>1</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way <sup>1</sup> of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be destroyed.**

## SECOND READING

1 John 5:9-13

*God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

**I**f we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given

concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Ⓐ Word of God, Word of Life.

Ⓒ 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.

Ⓐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Ⓒ Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 17:6-19**

*In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

Jesus prayed: <sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Ⓐ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓒ 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*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

**ELW 769**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 If you but trust in God to guide you<br/>with gentle hand through all your ways,<br/>you'll find that God is there beside you<br/>when crosses come, in trying days.<br/>Trust then in God's unchanging love;<br/>build on the rock that will not move.</b></p> <p><b>2 What gain is there in anxious weeping,<br/>in helpless anger and distress?<br/>If you are in your Savior's keeping,<br/>in sorrow will he love you less?<br/>For Christ who took for you a cross<br/>will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.</b></p> | <p><b>3 The Lord our restless hearts is holding,<br/>in peace and quietness content.<br/>We rest in God's good will unfolding,<br/>what wisdom from on high has sent.<br/>God, who has chosen us by grace,<br/>knows very well the fears we face.</b></p> <p><b>4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,<br/>offer your service faithfully.<br/>Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,<br/>you'll find this promise true to be.<br/>This is our confidence indeed:<br/>God never fails in time of need.</b></p> |
|--|--|

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite  
Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## **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)*

**Prayers this week:** Joyce Wachal

**On-going Care:** Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, 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

*Many Gifts, One Spirit*

by Allen Pote

(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!"



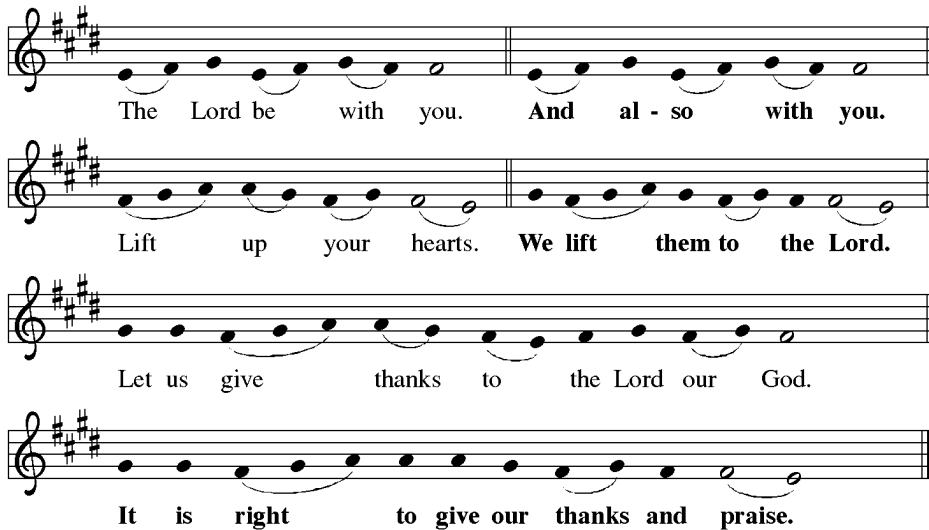
Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.  
Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

### OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Risen One,

☑ 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.

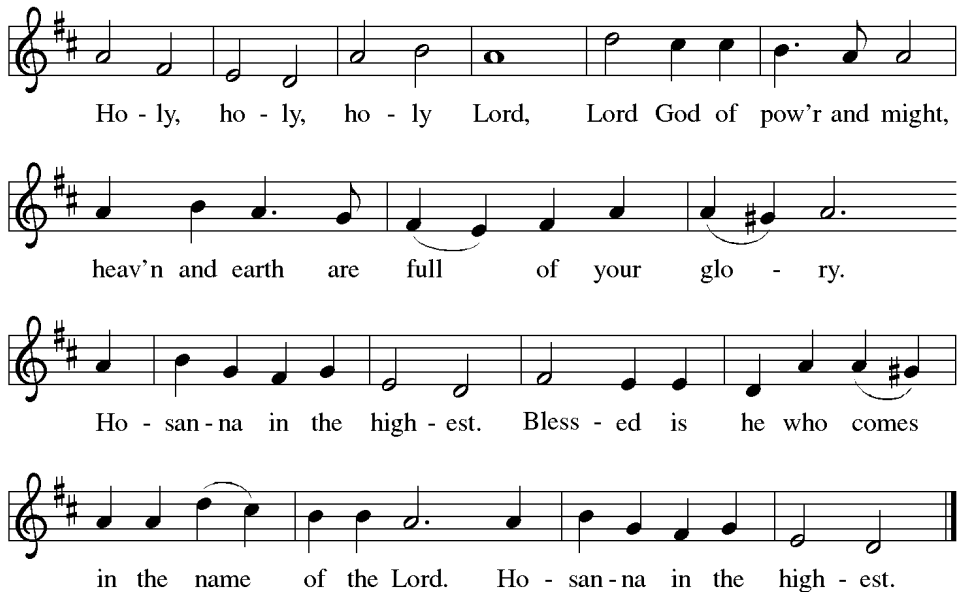
## HOLY COMMUNION



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

## 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.

## 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.
- C** **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**

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

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

## AGNUS DEI



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



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



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



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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come and 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.*

*Refrain*

Where true charity and love abide,  
God is dwelling there.

- 1 We are gathered by the one love of Christ Jesus;  
let us lift our voices to God and be joyful.  
In holy wonder let us love the living God,  
and may our hearts ever be one in faithful love. *Refrain*
- 2 Since we are all one in the Lord, as we gather,  
let us be watchful that no strife still divide us.  
Contention, envy, ill will, spite—may these all cease;  
with us, abiding in our midst, is Christ our God. *Refrain*
- 3 All surrounded by the blest saints, we shall see you  
face to face in glory and light, O Christ Jesus.  
With holy joy far beyond thought we shall be full,  
from age to age, world without end, forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Latin, 9th cent.; tr. composite  
Text © 1995, 2001 Augsburg Fortress.

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

ELW 494

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 For the bread which you have broken,<br/>for the wine which you have poured,<br/>for the words which you have spoken,<br/>now we give you thanks, O Lord.</li> <li>2 By this promise that you love us,<br/>by your gift of peace restored,<br/>by your call to heav'n above us,<br/>hallow all our lives, O Lord.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 With the saints who now adore you,<br/>seated at the heav'nly board,<br/>may the church still waiting for you<br/>keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.</li> <li>4 In your service, Lord, defend us;<br/>in our hearts keep watch and ward;<br/>in the world to which you send us<br/>let your kingdom come, O Lord.</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.  
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

*(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

**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

*Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*

ELW 582

**1** Holy Spirit, ever dwelling  
in the holiest realms of light;  
Holy Spirit, ever brooding  
o'er a world of gloom and night;  
Holy Spirit, ever raising  
those of earth to thrones on high;  
living, life-imparting Spirit,  
you we praise and magnify.

**2** Holy Spirit, ever living  
as the church's very life;  
Holy Spirit, ever striving  
through us in a ceaseless strife;  
Holy Spirit, ever forming  
in the church the mind of Christ:  
you we praise with endless worship  
for your gifts and fruits unpriced.

**3** Holy Spirit, ever working  
through the church's ministry;  
quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,  
setting captive sinners free;  
Holy Spirit, ever binding  
age to age and soul to soul  
in communion never ending,  
you we worship and extol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt.

## DISMISSAL

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

**C** 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)

May 11 & 12, 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 by John & Lynn Schneiderman in celebration of their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; in honor of Lawton Rees' Graduation given by his parents, Toby & Eric Rees

### **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.

### **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

#### **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:** Spiritual Practices

**Next Week:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

#### **Adult Forum**

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

**This Week:** No Forum (Fellowship)

**Next Week:** Intergenerational Faith Formation

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### May 12 Sunday

Easter 7  
Mother's Day  
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



### May 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline  
12:15 PM Worship

### May 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Circle 5

### May 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### May 19 Sunday

Day of Pentecost



8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Intergenerational Faith Formation Hour

### May 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### May 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### May is Blindness Prevention Month

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

### 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@NLom.org or 402-944-2544. More info and register at:

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

### Baptism 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.

### Omaha Lutheran Young Adults

#### Table Theology

Sunday, May 19

#### 6:30 PM

#### Local Patio & Grill

RSVP to Greta by emailing:

[omahalutheranyoungadults@nelcm.com](mailto:omahalutheranyoungadults@nelcm.com)

### Interested in Spiritual Direction?

Tuesday, May 21

#### 7:00 PM

Are you interested in the art of spiritual direction and guidance? Seeking the Spirit Within warmly invites you to an online dialogue exploring the formational path towards becoming a soul caregiver. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr4mbyzh>

### 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>

### 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>

### Vacation Bible School

#### Camp Firelight

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!

### 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

Do you or anyone you know need service hours?

Volunteering at the Kountze Food Pantry is a perfect opportunity to boost your resume and have some fun at the same time! We are in need of strong, young people to help us unload deliveries at 8 AM Monday morning, and to carry out groceries for our guests from 10 AM-1 PM. You can work all or part of that time. We also need people on Friday evenings from 5 PM-6:45 PM. There are other positions for people of all ages and abilities. Please consider joining us by signing up at the following link:

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

### Seminarian Graduate

Giselle Loucks will graduate from Wartburg Theological Seminary this Sunday, May 12, with a Master's of Divinity degree. She was recently married to another seminarian who will graduate next spring. She will spend the upcoming year doing more CPW. Their plan is to seek first calls in North Dakota next spring. If you would like an address to send congratulations to, please call the church office.

### Lost & Found

If you lost it, we might have found it. Check out the counter by the back office door to see if any of these belong to you, including several pair of glasses that will be donated if they have not been reunited with their owners at the end of the month. Please take a look.

### Nebraska Synod Disaster Response—NE/IA Tornadoes

Through the NE Synod Disaster Response Fund, we are able to help respond to needs related to recovery and rebuilding for the long-haul. All gifts to the disaster fund are used in response to recovery, responding, and rebuilding to disasters. You may give to KMLC and mark it "Disaster Response" or give directly to Disaster Response at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5h3y7pm8>

### Icons in Transformation

All Saints Episcopal Church

9302 Blondo St.

Open to the Public

Through June 9

Icons In Transformation by Ludmila Pawlowska will be exhibited at All Saints through June 9. Jane Tan Creti is a member of the All Saints Episcopal Church and a very talented iconographer, has written many icons which are on display in the All Saints Episcopal Church including a recently completed major project that is now displayed over the main doors of the narthex at All Saints. It includes the main icon of the Three Angles plus seven saints surrounding it. Jane is the iconographer that wrote the icon on our cross that is used during Lent and Easter as well as the icon in the KMLC Pantry. Icons in Transformation regular operating hours now through June 9:

- Fridays 5 PM to 7 PM docent-led tours, wine & cheese
- Saturdays 12 PM to 4 PM docent-led tours (on display until 7 PM - no tours after 4 PM)
- Sundays 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM art workshops for all ages

### Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 5/2/2024—Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 64

Wednesday: 12:15: 17

Total: 263

Streaming: 38

Pantry Guests Served: 1,103 (inc. 404 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18

Offering:

\$25,257.11 (Regular)

\$9,275.74 (Specials)

\$406.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus prays for our protection in the world.*



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Mathias replaces Judas
Tuesday	1 John 5:9-13	Knowing about eternal life
Wednesday	2 Samuel 22:1-4	David's song of thanksgiving
Thursday	Psalms 40:1-10	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Requests for prayer
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way of happiness
Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"And now I [Jesus] am no longer in the world, but they [disciples] are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."* **John 17:11 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord Jesus, for your wisdom, healing power, saving work, and prayers for our protection and care for our life together, we give you thanks. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal that gives us strength and for your life-giving word filled with wisdom, light, and love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and protect you from all harm.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Tell or think about a time you got hurt and who helped you.
- How can our faith help us when we get hurt?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 17:6-19.

Jesus acknowledges that his followers will remain in the world even while he is no longer physically present. This passage reflects the adage that Christians are to be in the world but not of the world. John 3:16 is an anchor for the Gospel of John's approach to the world. God loves the world. What is the world? It represents all that resists and rejects the revelation of God through Jesus. What a contrast! We, as Jesus' followers are to love and pray for those people who oppose God and God's rule of the world through Jesus. This is truly a daunting challenge. It is so great that Jesus must pray for our protection from "the evil one" (v. 15), the power that opposes everything God stands for. Jesus' prayer includes the desire for our unity so that we may be one in Christ. Living in a world opposed to the light, to truth, and to faith in Christ, we are cautioned not to let that which opposes love and faith divide us.

*Discuss:* What do you see happening around you that you think may divide Jesus' followers through the powers of this world?

*Pray:* **Compassionate God, we thank you for your protection and guidance for our lives; help us to be your light and truth in a world that does not know you and Christ 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 help protect someone from harm?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today in the United States, it is Mother's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all women who have cared for you. In the church, motherhood represents the important role of caring for and nurturing others in the journey of faith. Take time to give thanks and pray for the women who have cared for you. Consider reaching out to them with a call, note, or email. *Pray for them:*

**Dear God, I thank you for the gift and life of [name/s] who has shown me love and faith in your name. May she be blessed with joy and peace in knowing you through the love of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15