

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

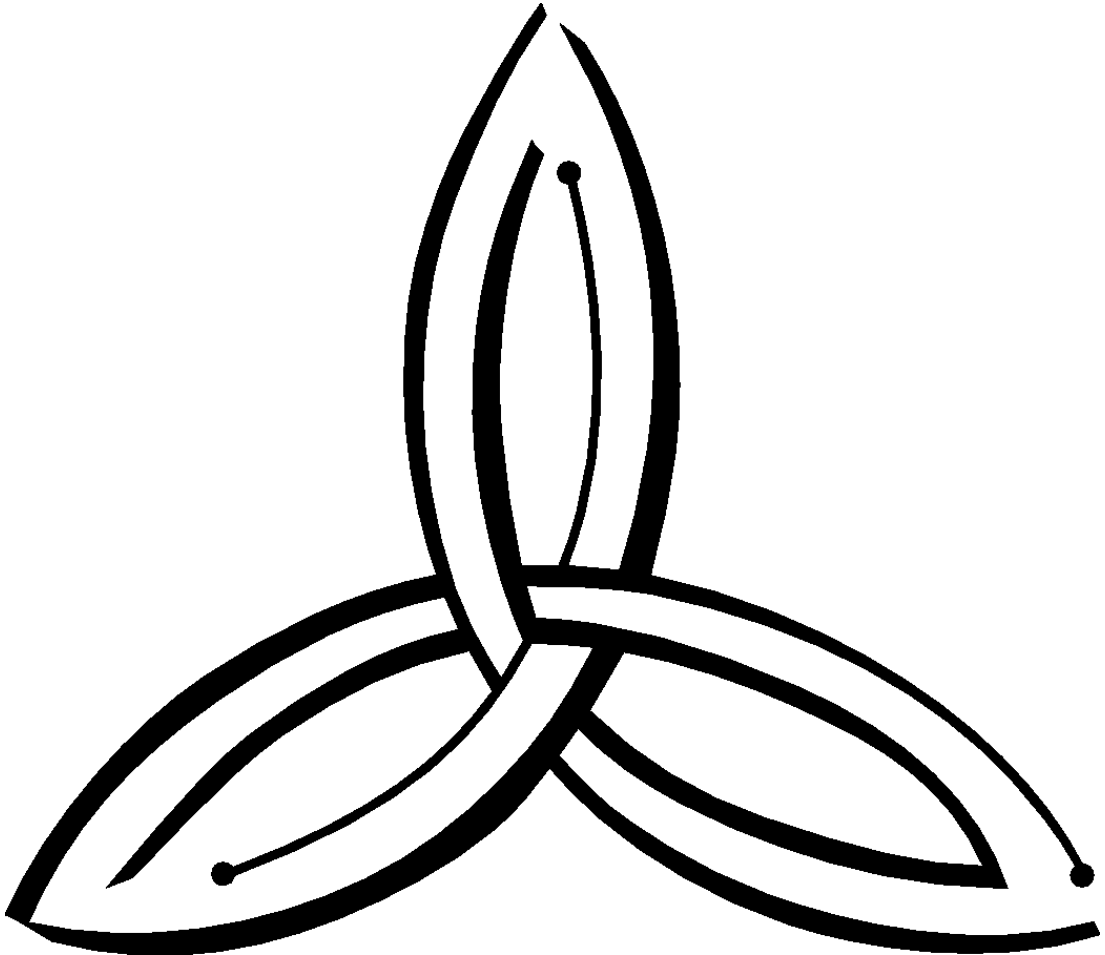
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

May 26, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY



When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our provider,

C **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. Amen.

C Amen.

- 1** Come, join the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun—
the interweaving of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time
did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope,
made room within their dance.
- 2** Come, see the face of Trinity,
newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns
outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant
for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death,
God rolls away the stone.
- 3** Come, speak aloud of Trinity,
as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost
to tell the Savior's name.
We know the yoke of sin and death,
our necks have worn it smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe
that we are free to move!
- 4** Within the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave,
by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life:
the dance of Trinity.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Text © 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com All rights reserved. Used by permission.**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.



1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
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come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Almighty Creator and ever-living God:

☞ we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 166

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (read responsively)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned asking for- evermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain
Leader

All



Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is
God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, bind the bro - ken, find the lost,
con - firm in us the fire and love of Pen - te - cost.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 416

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

SERMON

Pastor Joyce Miller

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Wash O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.</p> | <p>2 We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.</p> |
| <p>3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
waterwashed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer,
Recreate us, God transform.</p> | |

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: BEACH SPRING. The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
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HOLY BAPTISM

see ELW pg 227

PROFESSION OF FAITH

- ☐ Do you believe in God the Father?
- ☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
- ☐ Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- ☑ **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

WELCOME

P Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

Prayers this week: Dale Broekemeier, Gloria Erickson, Joyce Wachal

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Astrid Sophie Carlsdottir Hartmann, daughter of Carl & Leslie Hartmann and Emmet Ryan Busted, son of Scott & Elizabeth Busted (5/26/2024)

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, 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, Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; 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

- 📄 The peace of Christ be with you always.
- 📄 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

Hymne à l'amour

Margaret Monnot
Kai Johnson, violin

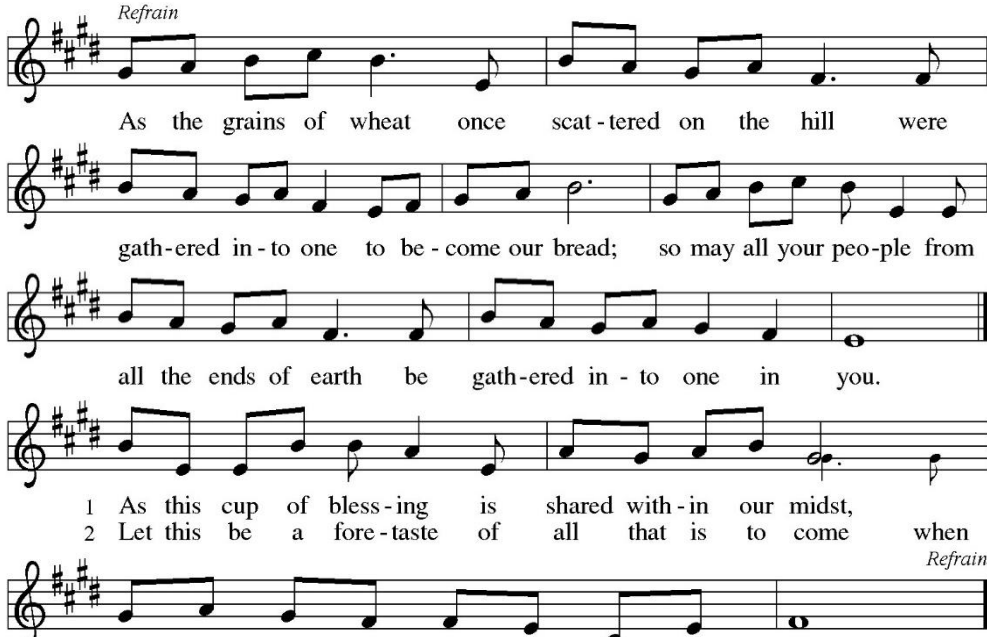
(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

- Ⓟ Jesus, Bread of life,
- ☑ **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

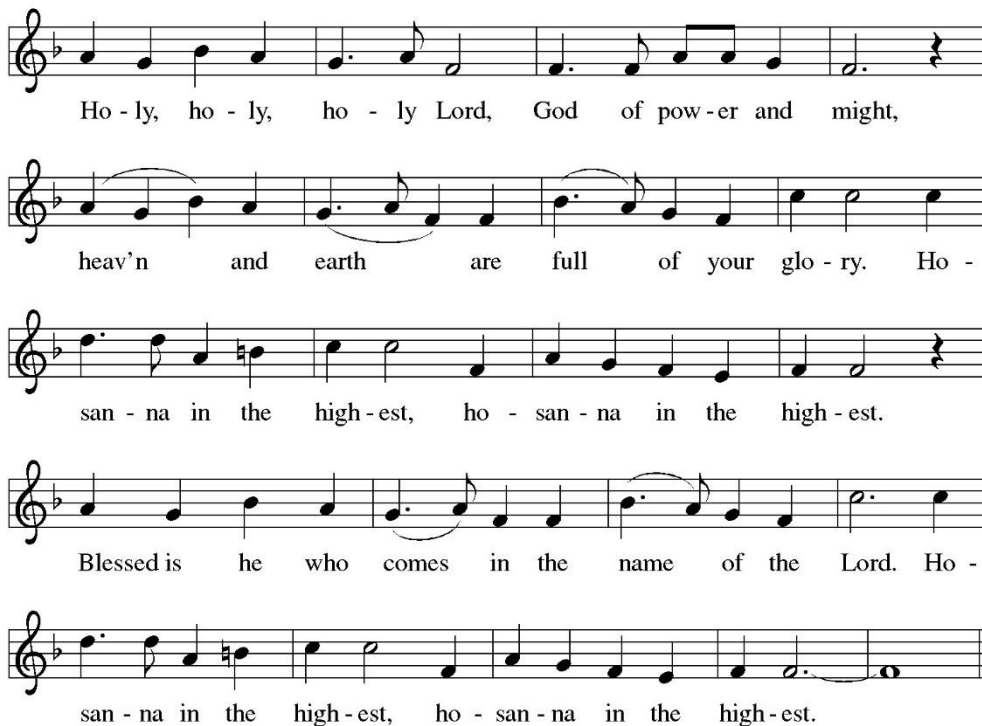
HOLY COMMUNION

- Ⓟ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also 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 SUNDAYS

- Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

C **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table Christ has set.

C **There is more than enough for all!**

(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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Nearer My God to Thee

arr. Ricky & Julie Valdez
Kai Johnson, violin

- 1** Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
- 2** Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.
- 3** Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flow'r, until I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342- c. 1413
Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453

- 1** We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.
- 2** We are fed and we're nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and
again we are blessed.
For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper
than all of our need.
- 3** We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.
- 4** Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** Jesus, Bread of life,
C we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever.
- ☞ **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

ELW 413

- 1 **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**
- 2 **Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**
- 3 **Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.**
- 4 **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

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 Fleming	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

May 25 & 26, 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 LeClare Steffen in memory of her father, Leo Gardiner, and in memory of LeClare's husband, given by LeClare, Tracey & Tom, Jane & Rod Lynam, and Jennifer; by Steve & Diane O'Connor

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

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. We are grateful that Sherri Labedz will be taking over the Breakfast Coordinator position in June. Please consider how you might be able to help sustain this ministry with helping to clean up after the 2nd Sunday Breakfast or joining one of the other teams to give needed support. Please contact Sherri Labedz or the church office if you would like to help.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship.

This week: Fellowship

Next week: Fellowship (Pastors at Synod Assembly)

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 26 Sunday

Holy Trinity
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

May 27 Monday

Memorial Day (Observed)
OFFICE CLOSED/No Pantry

May 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3
7:30 PM Youth Committee

May 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 30 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 31 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

June 1 Saturday

Jun 1 - Jun 2 Synod Assembly
5:00 PM Worship
Homebound Communion

June 2 Sunday

Pentecost 2
Homebound Communion
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Youth Trip Gathering/
Young Adult Gathering Meeting

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Collecting Personal Care Items for the Pantry

Our Women of the ELCA Groups are collecting personal care items for the Kountze Food Pantry during the month of May. If you'd like to help at this time—or any time—please place the items in the box in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks.

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.

Synod Assembly Worship

Sunday, June 2

11 AM

The Nebraska Synod Assembly will come to an inspiring close worshipping together. We're thrilled to invite all congregations to participate. Join us as we worship together across the state... from Scottsbluff to McCook to Niobrara to Falls City! You are invited to gather with God's people on the Second Sunday after Pentecost this year, committing to Cultivate Love and to continue in our shared mission and ministry as the whole church in the state of Nebraska. Go to:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/>

to watch assembly happenings on June 1 and 2. This is where you can join the Sunday 11 AM Worship as well.

Beignet Breakfast

Sunday, June 9

Join us for our final NOLA Awareness Event supporting the youth as they prepare for their trip to

the ELCA Youth and Young Adult Gathering in New Orleans. Homemade Beignets and yogurt will be served. Please come and be generous as we provide our final opportunity to support this trip that will enlighten and sustain the youth, young adults, and adult leaders as they participate in growing in faith and experiencing the wider church in new ways through their trip. Everyone is welcome.

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. She 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

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>

Men's Lunch
Thursday, June 20
11:30 AM
Fellowship Lounge
Cost: \$10.00

In June, Tim Holland will share with us highlights from his trip to Egypt and Jordan. We will discuss the beginning of architecture, the 5,000-year-old pyramids, and the evolution as seen by temple architecture along the Nile. He will also share with us the path of the Holy Family in Egypt and Moses at Mt. Nebo in Jordan. Please let Jim know if you'll be attending by June 18 so he knows how many to plan on for lunch (jim@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761).

Table Grace The Musical
June 21-22, June 27-29, August 8-9

This musical is based on a combination of real life stories molded into fictional characters and story-lines. It's a celebration of grace, love, second chances, and acceptance. Don't miss it!

The Table Grace newsletter can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4eebubc9>

Annual Neighborhood Gathering
Sunday, June 23
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Kountze will be hosting our Annual Neighborhood Gathering again this year. We will hold the event at the North end of the West parking lot. Bring your friends and neighbors! All are invited! Anyone that wants to have a good time is welcome to stop by and have a hot dog and popcorn. We will have a new band this year, "Ron and the Renegades," They will not be playing for the worship services so the Gathering will start at 11:00 AM. We can always use volunteers, so please use the insert in the weekly bulletin beginning June 2 to sign up or contact the Church office if you can help. More details to follow shortly.

Vacation Bible School
Camp Firelight
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!

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-12:45 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>

Connect With Pr. Lucy...

To make an appointment for coffee and a one-on-one conversation, go to:

<https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>

You can also message her. If you would like to follow her on Facebook or Instagram, please feel free to do so. She won't send a friend request or follow you because she doesn't want to put you in an awkward position of friending her or not. She will accept your friend or follow request.

Attendance & Giving
Thursday, 5/16—Wednesday, 5/22

Saturday: 30

Sunday: 9:00: 141 11:00: 84

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 265

Streaming: 41

Pantry Guests Served: 997 (inc. 318 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$21,149.90 (Regular) \$3,076.73 (Specials)

\$105,612.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are born for a relationship with God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:1-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor
Thursday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Friday	1 John 3:1-3	Children of God
Saturday	Psalm 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 2:23-3:6	A question about the sabbath



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus answered him [Nicodemus], "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." **John 3:3 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mystery and love, we thank you for coming to us in three persons that we may be born to a living hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Triune God, we thank you for this gift of food that reminds us of our relationship to you based on trust, dependence, and belonging. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in Jesus Christ and enjoy eternal life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is something that is hard for you to understand or believe?
- Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to the wind (John 3:8). How is the Holy Spirit like the wind?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 3:1-17.

The Holy Trinity, God in three persons, is a mystery. Who can fully understand or describe God? No one! Trinity Sunday is about more than a mystery. It gives us an opportunity to recognize and celebrate that we are born of God, we are given new life through water and the Spirit, and we are made part of the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. We have a dynamic, relational God who becomes flesh so that we may be born of the Spirit and enjoy eternal life. Like a child, we are given an intimate relationship with God based on trust, dependence, and belonging. Yes, this awesome God can leave us confused and asking questions like Nicodemus. However, what started for Nicodemus with confusion in the dark of night eventually led to his defense of Jesus (John 7:50-52) and his taking the risk of joining Joseph of Arimathea in preparing Jesus' body for burial (John 19:39-42). Jesus' life and work is all about overcoming the judgment of the world with a living faith in him, the Son of God, so that our lives may be filled with abundance, grace, and truth.

Discuss: How does God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit fill you with trust, dependence, and a sense of belonging?

Pray: **Creator God, for your Holy Spirit and your Son, our Savior and Lord, we thank you for giving us a relationship to you based on trust, love, and mercy. 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 walk alongside others in their faith journey?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A doxology is an expression of giving praise to God. One of the most treasured doxologies sung around the world each week in Christian congregations and homes was written by Anglican Bishop Thomas Ken and published in 1709. It is often used as a mealtime prayer. Light three candles to symbolize the Holy Trinity. Then sing or read the doxology: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23—3:6