

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
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402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

April 7, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY in EASTER
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* Sebastian Temple/setting by Douglas E. Wagner
Bruce Nissen, *organ*
Great is Thy Faithfulness William M. Runyan/arr. John F. Wilson
Bruce Nissen, *organ*
Jean Johnson, *piano*

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 That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!

2 O Jesus, king of gentleness,
with constant love our hearts possess;
to you our lips will ever raise
the tribute of our grateful praise.

3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all
in this our Easter festival,
for you will be our strength and shield
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.

4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise,
and God the Spirit, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

☑ And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Choir

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

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

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

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God,

C with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 4:32-35

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 504

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

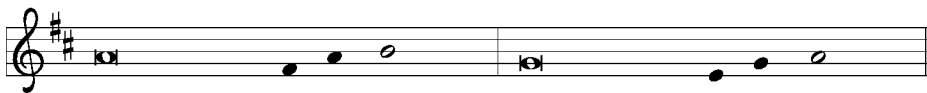
Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133

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



¹How good and how pleas-¹ant it is,
when kindred live togeth-¹er in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up-¹ on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar¹ of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the¹ hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for-¹evermore.

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



- Ⓟ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
- Ⓒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 492

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Ⓟ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th 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 Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk by Faith

ELW 635 vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."**
- 2 We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**
- 4 For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.**

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 9:00 AM

11 am Service continues with Nicene Creed on page 9

Bentley Micah Baker

Son of Ashley Baker

Grandson of Nakoma Baker

Baptized on November 21, 2015 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Bible Verse: II Corinthians 12:10

"Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

Faith Statement:

I believe God to be a caring Father in heaven who daily forgives me no matter how bad I am.

In my faith journey I feel like I am just getting started. I still have my whole life ahead of me, so I can go to church my whole life and serve God.

I hope God will help me stay in the faith and that I don't shy away from church and anything to do with be faithful to God.

Jennifer Leigh Hellwig

Daughter of Jane Lynam and Bruce Hellwig

Granddaughter of LeClare Steffen

Baptized on May 7, 1988 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Bible Verse: Ephesians 4:1-3

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

P Merciful God,

C we thank you for these brothers and sisters, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

- P** You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

- P** People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

P We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

- P** We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

(sit)

- P** Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Response from confirmand: Amen.

(rise in body or spirit)

- P** Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

THE NICENE CREED (11:00 AM)

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

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

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Cris Hall; Carolyn Ireland; Ruth Sayre; Evelyn Sueper; Ardes Weedman

Thanksgiving: for the affirmation of baptism of Bentley Micah Baker and Jennifer Leigh Hellwig

Prayers This Week: Betty Callies, Martha Eckmann

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

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, 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; 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

Christ is Risen, Alleluia

by Albrecht and Althouse

(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!"



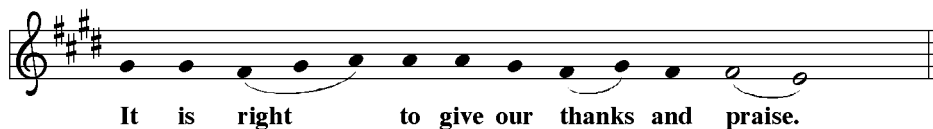
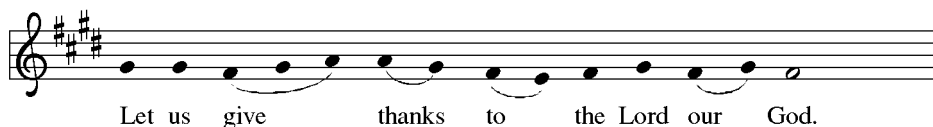
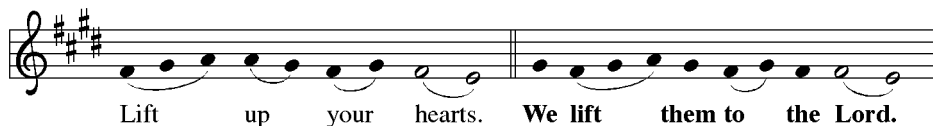
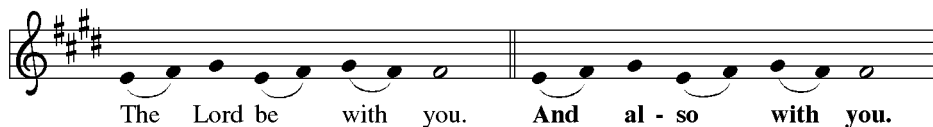
Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.
Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Risen One,

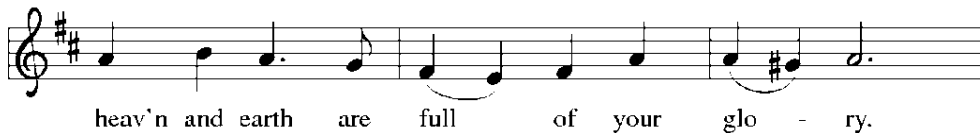
☑ you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE FOR EASTER

SANCTUS



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.

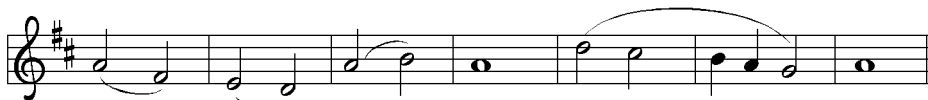
- P** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

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

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

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

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

AGNUS DEI



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



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



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



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come and eat at God's table.

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

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

- 1** Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.
- 2** Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.
- 3** Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

- 1** Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
- Refrain*
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.
- 2** Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
Refrain
- 3** Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
Refrain

Text: African American spiritual

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Shepherding God,
G 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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☛ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

☞ Almighty God:

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

ELW 376 vs. 1 & 2

1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

Refrain

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!**

DISMISSAL

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

☛ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Majesty

Jack W. Hayford/arr. John F. Wilson
Bruce Nissen, *organ*
Jean Johnson, *piano*

✝ ✝ ✝

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KOUNTZE STAFF

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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

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www.kmlchurch.org

April 6 & 7, 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

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.



Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Laurine Savine in honor and thanksgiving of her KMLC friends for all of the birthday well-wishes and the surprise potluck supper.

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies were given to the glory of God by Bob & Sandy Fonda; in memory of Lois Johnson given by Lee & Jean Johnson; in memory of Elmer Pfeiffer given by the Gary Pfeiffer family; in memory of Lorraine Biel Pfeiffer given by the Gary Pfeiffer family; in memory of Ed and Darlene White by John, Christi, Holly, and Jack

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

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

12:30 PM (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Place: Panera, 344 N Saddle Creek Rd

Pastor Lucy & Mia Valquier, together with the youth and young adults of Kountze, would like to invite you to an Easter Book Group. We will be reading & discussing the book *The Everyday Advocate: Living Out Your Calling to Social Justice* by Ross Murray. The group will meet on Sunday afternoons in April. Ross Murray was the featured speaker at the annual Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly last fall. He is an ordained deacon in the ELCA, vice president at the GLAAD Media Institute, and the founding director of the Naming Project, a faith-based youth ministry and summer camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

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

Grades K-6

Join us on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd 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

This Week: Reception for Confirmands

Next Week: Spiritual Practices

Adult Forum

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

This Week: Reception for Confirmands

Next Week: The Creed: "He Died" and "On the Third Day Rose Again"

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 7 Sunday

Easter 2

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism

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 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lunch

7:00 PM Global Mission Committee

April 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

4:00 PM Executive Committee

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy's

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

April 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 13 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 14 Sunday

Easter 3

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

12:15 PM Book Group

12:30 PM Easter Book Group

5:00 PM Dress Up Mystery Dinner
(grades 9 - Young Adult)

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays in April

6 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Women Omaha (LWO)

Held at Kountze Memorial

Tuesday, April 9

12 PM

Bring a sack lunch and \$3 for dessert.

Reservations by April 7 to Faith at 402 734 4629. Come and join us.!

**ELCA Social Statement Conversation and Official Hearing
Engage in Conversation about the ELCA Social Statement
on Civic Life and Faith**

Thursday, April 11, 7 - 8 PM

Thursday, April 18, 7 - 8 PM

The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. For

more information or to register to attend by Zoom, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/4tzk8vyy>

**ELCA Youth Gathering/Young Adult Gathering
Meeting/Lock-In**

7 PM, Friday, April 12—7 AM, Saturday, April 13

All participants attending the gathering this summer will join with the group from Immanuel in Bellevue at their church (104 Galvin Rd. N). Please know that our prayers surround you in this time of preparation.

New Member Classes

April 14 & 21

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, May 5 (please note date change). Questions or planning to attend? Call the church office – we look forward to connecting with you!

Dress Up Mystery Menu Dinner

All 9th Graders – Young Adults

Sunday, April 14

5 PM

You are invited to put on your best dress clothes and arrive at the church to hear speaker Kathy Martin present about healthy relationships. Following, you will guess what might be on the menu. As you order, your meal might arrive with no food at all or all food with no utensils. Eventually, all will enjoy a great meal. Don't miss out! Bring your friends! **Sign up to attend by Thursday, April 11 at:**

<https://form.jotform.com/232355679500155>

Men's Lunch

Thursday, April 18

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

There isn't a program or menu planned at this time, but Jim never let's us down! Plan to join the guys for lunch and RSVP by Tuesday, April 16.

Explore! Day Retreat

Wednesday, April 13 5:30-7:30 PM

Church Fellowship Center

1000 N. 10th St.

Wichita, KS 67202

Explore! gives children the perfect opportunity to experience a day of adventure and faith-building out at CJH Camp. In addition to Bible study and worship, we will be experiencing many favorite camp activities together as we share in fun and fellowship. Every Explore! Day Retreat is different, so first-time and long-time participants can both join in the fun as we focus on environmental education, fellowship, and faith! Cost: \$25 per camper. This cost includes meals and programming on Saturday. A tentative schedule and registration can be found at: <https://www.cjhcenter.org/explore>

SHAREOmaha Do Good Days

April 24-27

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

Honoring All Graduates

Sunday, April 28

9 or 11 AM

Reception: 10:10 - 10:50 AM

If you have graduated in the past year or will graduate this spring, please let us know. On April 28 we will uplift the names of all who are celebrating a graduation during the year. Call the church office by April 15 at 402-341-7761 or email shari@kmlchurch.org, so we can celebrate with you. A Quilt Blessing for high school graduates will take place on

that date. There will also be a reception of Congratulations and Celebration in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. Cards of Congratulations can be brought by the congregation on this day. If you forget, we have some that you can write on at the Welcome Desk. A listing of all graduates will be in the May Good News and the Sunday bulletin on April 21 and 28.

High School Graduate Quilt Blessing

Sunday, April 28

9 or 11 AM

A reception of Congratulations and Celebration will take place on April 28 from 10:10 - 10:50 AM. Along with breakfast, cake will be served. High School Seniors, please submit 5 to 7 photos by **Friday, April 19** to include in the video presentation that will be shown during this time to shari@kmlchurch.org.

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

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

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

Sunday, May 5

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Cost: Free-will Donation

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.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 3/28/2024—Wednesday, 4/3/2024

Saturday: 55

Sunday: 7:30 & 9:00: 323 11:00: 194

Wednesday: 12:15: 10 Confirmation: 4

Streaming: 92

Pantry Guests Served: Closed

Medical Clinic Guests Served: Closed

Offering:

\$15,915.41 (Regular) \$9,932.58 (Specials)

\$337.00 (Debt Reduction)

Walking in the light of Jesus together.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1-2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Matthew 5:14-16	Let your light shine
Thursday	Psalms 27	Song of confidence
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Light shining in the darkness
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[I]f we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love and mercy, we thank you for the community of faith that helps us to know and experience your light and truth through Jesus, our resurrected Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, we thank you for this meal and pray that others may have what they need to live, serve, and trust in you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's light bless you with people filled with joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive someone? Explain.
- Why is forgiveness important to Christian fellowship?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 1:1-2:2.

Linus from the Peanuts comic strip once said, "I love mankind... It's people I can't stand!" Living in community with others can be a challenge. For Christians, living together in community is God's gift for our broken and sinful lives. Sometimes, we deceive ourselves into thinking we are more deserving, better than, or more lovable than others. Confession frees us to welcome Jesus into our lives through God's power of forgiveness that is for all. This simple message of forgiveness is hard to experience, especially when there are people whom we have had a hard time loving or even accepting. God's light takes us out of our own darkness and brings us into a humble yet joyous fellowship with others. Unity and fellowship have always been at the heart of God's creative and redeeming work for all the world (Psalm 133). We are asked to be aware of our darkness and move into the light through the power of God's forgiving grace.

Discuss: How does confession and forgiveness of your own brokenness help you understand fellowship with others in a new light?

Pray: God of light and truth, we thank you for forgiveness given to us through the suffering of Jesus Christ that we may have eternal fellowship with you and with all people. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to restore a broken relationship?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There is a long history of Christians sharing a sign of peace with one another during worship as an expression of the peace God gives to us through Jesus. This sharing of the peace relates directly to Jesus' appearance to the disciples when he said, "Peace be with you" three times (John 20:19-31). This week, when you are visited by others in your home or when you are visiting friends, take a moment to share the peace. As you shake their hand, hug them, or give a high five, greet them by saying: Peace be with you.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48