

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

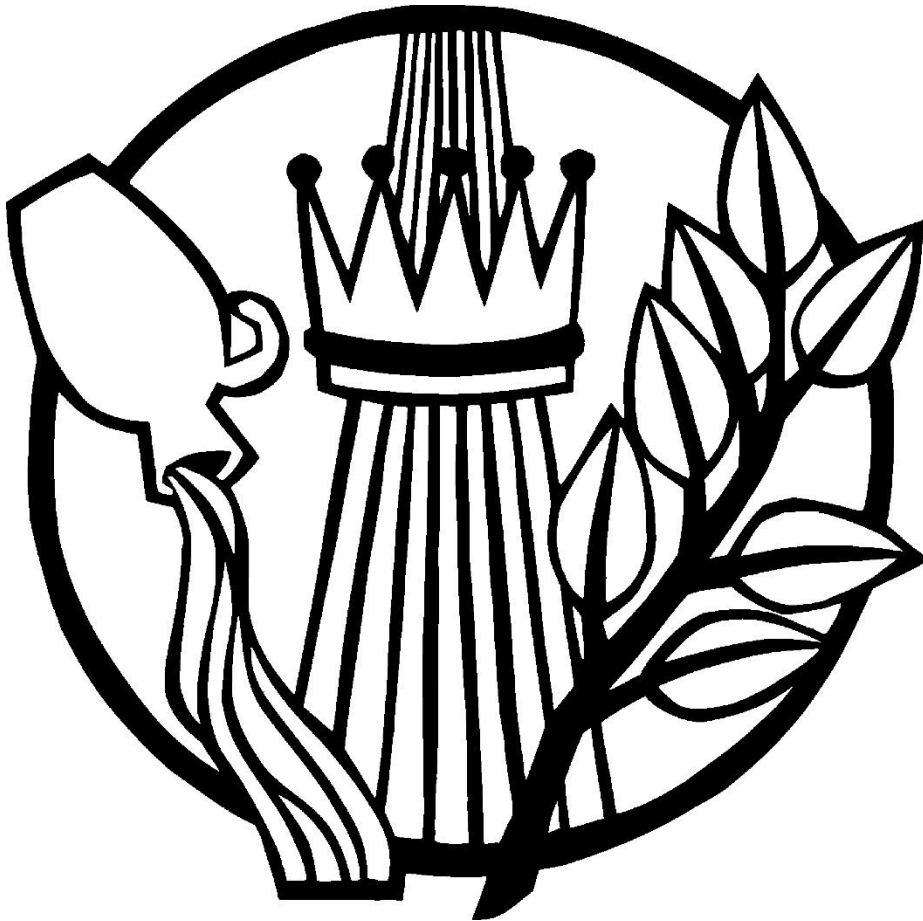
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor  
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2650 Farnam Street  
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402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

September 15, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**



*Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P** God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

**C** Amen.

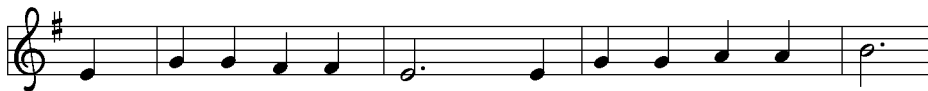
- 1 All creatures, worship God most high!  
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;  
sing, sister moon and stars of night:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain  
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear sister water, useful, clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,  
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,  
praise God in colors bright and rare:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4 All who for love of God forgive,  
all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;  
still make your song amid the tears:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite  
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

## KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## GLORIA



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ O God,

☞ through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

**T**he Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he awakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out  
the beard;  
I did not hide my face

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

from insult and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to  
shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

☑ Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 116:1-9** (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)



I will walk in the pres-ence of the LORD.

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,  
and listened to my | supplication,  
<sup>2</sup>for the Lord has given | ear to me  
whenev- | er I called.  
<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;  
I came to | grief and sorrow.  
<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name | of the Lord:  
“O Lord, I pray you, | save my life.” *Refrain*  
<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the | Lord and righteous;  
our God is full | of compassion.  
<sup>6</sup>The Lord watches o- | ver the innocent;  
I was brought low, | and God saved me.  
<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.  
for the Lord has dealt | well with you.  
<sup>8</sup>For you have rescued my | life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;  
<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence | of the Lord  
in the land | of the living. *Refrain*

## SECOND READING

James 3:1-12

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

**N**ot many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield fresh.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 322*

*This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"<sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."<sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."<sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

☐ 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, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 who are not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. All children will return to the sanctuary in time to receive communion. There are Children's Bibles and activity bags available to those who prefer to stay with their families.*

## SERMON

*Pastor Hall*



*Refrain*

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain***
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain***
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain***

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956  
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**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

- ☐** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☑** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**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.**  
**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

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

**Sympathy:** for the family and friends of Lois Hinrichs, mother of Steve Hinrichs and LeClare Steffen

**Prayers this week:** Jan Dewey, friend of Rae Austin, Kathy Englert

**On-going Care:** Lesley Akers, Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Tracey Mason, Lara McCormick, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Linda Peltz, Jim Perkins, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, Vinn Stephens, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Allyson White, 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, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; 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, Giselle Loucks

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**G** **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

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

ELW 694 vs. 1 &amp; 3



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;

3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



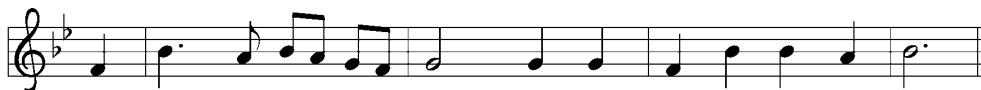
with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;

the gold-en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;

Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.

and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Blessed are you, O God,

**C** source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

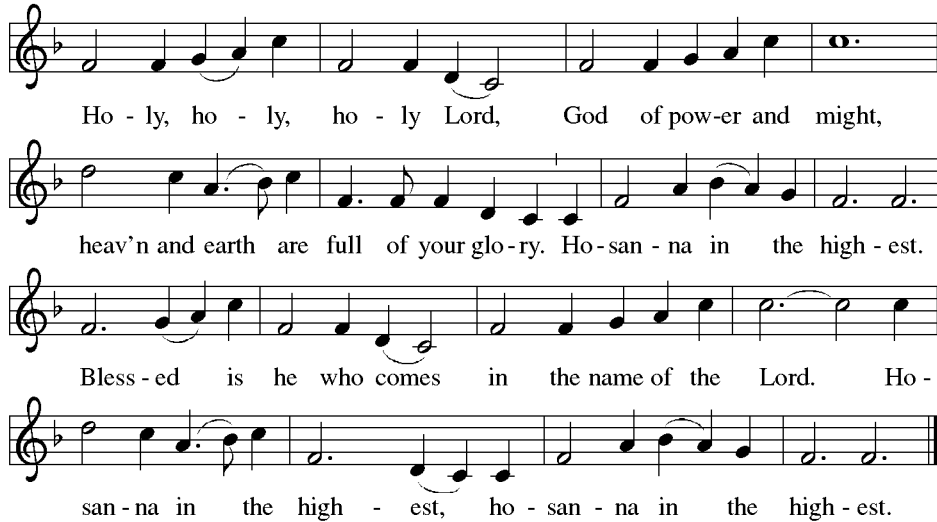
**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

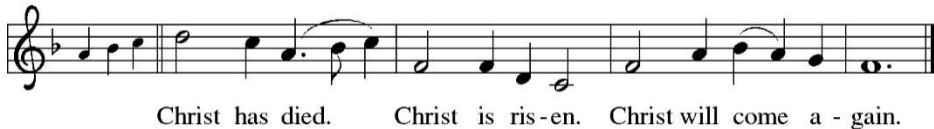
## SANCTUS



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.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

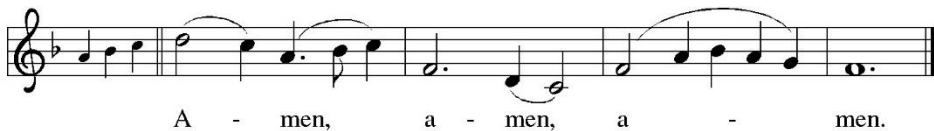
## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
... To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

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

## AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Jesus welcomes you to this table.

**C** **We come to meet our God.**

(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 Praise and thanks and adoration,  
Son of God, to you we give,  
for you chose to serve creation,  
died that sinners all might live.  
Dear Lord Jesus, guide my way;  
faithful let me day by day  
follow where your steps are leading,  
find adventure, joys exceeding!**

**2 Hold me ever in your keeping,  
comfort me in pain and strife;  
through my laughter and my weeping,  
lift me to a nobler life.  
Draw my fervent love to you;  
constant hope and faith renew  
in your birth, your life and passion,  
in your death and resurrection.**

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*We Who Once Were Dead*

ELW 495

**1 We who once were dead  
now live, fully knowing  
Jesus as our head.  
Life is overflowing  
when he breaks the bread.**

**4 Let us share the pain  
you endured in dying;  
we shall then remain  
living; death defying,  
we shall rise again.**

**2 We were lost in night,  
but you sought and found us.  
Give us strength to fight;  
death is all around us.  
Jesus, be our light.**

**5 Jesus, you were dead,  
but you rose and, living,  
made yourself our bread,  
in your goodness giving  
life though we were dead.**

**3 He became our bread;  
Jesus died to save us.  
On him we are fed,  
eating what he gave us,  
rising from the dead.**

**6 This is your design;  
in this meal we meet you.  
Be our bread and wine,  
Jesus, we entreat you.  
This shall be our sign.**

Text © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands. All rights reserved. Exclusive agent for English-language countries: OCP Publications,  
5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213..

*(rise in body or spirit)*

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

**P** Holy God,

**G** you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

☞ God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Lead On, O King Eternal!*

**ELW 805**

- 1 **Lead on, O King eternal!**  
The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest  
your tents will be our home.  
Through days of preparation  
your grace has made us strong;  
and now, O King eternal,  
we lift our battle song.
- 2 **Lead on, O King eternal,**  
till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper  
the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords loud clashing,  
nor roll of stirring drums,  
but deeds of love and mercy  
the heav'nly kingdom comes.
- 3 **Lead on, O King eternal:**  
we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning  
where'er your face appears.  
Your cross is lifted o'er us;  
we journey in its light;  
the crown awaits the conquest;  
lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

## DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

☞ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Mark Jones, *organ*

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## KOUNTZE STAFF

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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  
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Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

September 14 & 15, 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 worshipping, 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.

### 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.

### Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

### Thank you



for supporting the ministries of Kountze

Memorial Lutheran Church.

### Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



### Today at Kountze Memorial

**Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God** in honor of Charlie Ziegenbein's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday given by Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein; given in celebration of Glenn Anderson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

### Children's Choir

9:15 AM

#### K-6<sup>th</sup> Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

### Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

#### Grades K-4

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper rooms. The children will return to their seats in time to receive communion. There are Children's Bibles and activity bags available to those who prefer to stay with their families.

### Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The schedule for September is slightly changed. This morning, we'll serve biscuits & gravy, potatoes, and fruit. Next week is our picnic, so join us for donuts and stay for the picnic lunch! Hot breakfast will begin in October.

### Sunday School

10:10 AM

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

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions.

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Adult Forum

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

**This week:** 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation

**Next week:** Fellowship (Congregation Picnic Set up)

### New Member Classes

**September 15 & 29**

**10:15 AM**

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions.

### Baptism Reunion

**Has been postponed**

**Contact the Church Office for more information**

If you have a child that has been baptized in the last two years (January, 2023—August, 2024), mark your calendars to attend this event. Invitations will be coming your way in August. This event will help you to meet other parents in the church with babies and toddlers, learn about available opportunities the church offers for your children, and also ponder ways that you can share the faith daily in your home as you live out the baptismal promises made on behalf of your child.

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

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Pentecost 17

Good News Deadline

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 Café Lite

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:15 AM New Member Class

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9:00 AM - Noon Pantry Health Fair

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

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9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KETV Board

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

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12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

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11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

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5:00 PM Pantry

Vhshwp eh#54#vdxgd|#

11:00 AM Women's Fall

Gathering

5:00 PM Worship

Vhshwp eh#55#xqgd|#

Pentecost 18

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 Café Lite

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Free Community Health Fair

**Monday, September 16**

**9 AM - Noon**

Methodist Community Health Clinic and the Kountze Memorial Food Pantry are hosting this free health fair inside Kountze Commons outside of the Pantry as well as near the west parking lot of Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. Available screenings and services include flu vaccines, head and neck cancer screenings, skin cancer screenings, vital signs and glucose checks, healthy eating tips from registered dietitians, smoking cessation tips, and spotting the signs of a stroke or heart attack. You do not need to be a patient of Methodist Community Health Clinic or a Food Pantry guest to participate. ALL ARE WELCOME.

### A Spamtember Men's Lunch

**Thursday, September 19**

**11:30 AM**

**Recommended Donation: \$10.00**

"Beef might be for dinner" but "Spam is what's for lunch". We will sample a few spam recipes and learn more about the history of Spam. This is sure to put Jim's culinary skills to the test but rest assured everyone is promised a great time of food and fellowship. Please RSVP at the welcome desk, call the church office or email: [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to reserve your spot at the spamtacular event.

## Women's Fall Gathering & Soup Luncheon

**Saturday, September 21**

**11 AM**

All women are invited to join us...

\*You do not need to be a member of a Circle to attend.

\*Bring a friend or two. \*There is no cost for the lunch.

\*Please RSVP by Monday, September 16 so we know how many to plan for. After lunch, Jonna Holland will present highlights from her recent trip to Egypt and Jordan. She'll share what they learned about the religious roots of Egypt through the Pyramids and Temples along the Nile. She'll also show the influences of the "People of the Book" in Egypt: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. She'll share photos of what Moses saw on Mt. Nebo in Jordan, and where the Holy Family stayed in Cairo. She'll conclude with some interesting photos of Petra and the breathtaking Wadi Rum desert in Jordan, which served as the backdrop in several recent movies.

## Everyone is Invited to Our Annual Church Picnic!

**Sunday, September 22**

**11:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

Get ready for a day of food, fun, and fellowship at our Annual Church Picnic! Mark your calendars now because this is one event you won't want to miss. Join us at the church for a delicious meal (with a vegetarian option, of course) and bring your favorite side dish to share. The day will be filled with outdoor entertainment for the kids, and we'll wrap up with everyone's favorite—BINGO! Please sign up as you are able on the insert in today's bulletin to let us know if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!

## Worship Assistant Training

**Sunday, October 6, 12:15 PM or**

**Sunday, October 13, 10:10 AM**

- Join us for a training of Lectors, Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild
- All current servers are encouraged to attend for a refresher course
- If you are interested in learning more about Worship Assistants, please contact the church office to register or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall

## Help Wanted!

We have a growing number of youth (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) and young adults (college and young career-aged) involved in the congregation, and especially in this interim period as we figure out staffing, we could use some extra help making sure these important members of our congregation are welcomed and

invited to Worship + Grow + Serve as well. Here are some you might be able to help:

- Host an event in your home - simply provide snacks or a meal & a welcoming space.
- Chaperone an activity for our youth - just come and be an adult presence for a Confirmation or youth group event.
- Help lead Youth Forum on Sunday mornings - on a rotational basis once a month, curriculum / leadership guidance provided.
- Donate - snacks, meals, supplies, coffee, or the money to purchase those things. We all love food - and they're the way to a young person's heart!
- Other... - maybe you have your own ideas - we'd love to hear them

If this is an area where you might be able to help this year - even just once or twice, please let Pastor Lucy know!

## Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste for our Pantry guests. These items are always available along with bar soap, razors, feminine hygiene products and toilet tissue. We offer deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, shave cream, body wash and lotion on the first Monday of the month. Any donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste (or any of these hygiene products) would be greatly appreciated. You may place your contribution in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall or, if ordering online, sent directly to the Church. As always, we are in need of volunteers. We have jobs for most ages and abilities. We especially need volunteers on Friday evenings and on Monday morning September 16, when Methodist is hosting a health fair at the Kountze Pantry. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

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

## Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, 9/5—Wednesday, 9/11**

**Saturday: 31**

**Sunday: 9:00: 157 11:00: 58**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 16**

**Total: 262**

**Streaming: 48**

**Pantry Guests Served: 1025 (inc. 354 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12**

**Offering:**

\$15,315.11 (Regular)      \$4,119.25 (Specials)

\$387.00 (Debt Reduction)

## Followers of Jesus take up the cross.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross
Monday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Tuesday	James 3:1-12	Controlling the tongue
Wednesday	Acts 17:1-9	Uproar in Thessalonica
Thursday	Isaiah 53:1-12	The suffering servant
Friday	Matthew 18:31-34	Jesus foretells his death
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-9	A prayer of thanksgiving
Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is the greatest



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### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." **Mark 8:34 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for showing us the depth of your love for us and the power of suffering through the cross of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

#### Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that refreshes us and the cross that saves us, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the cross of Christ give you peace and hope.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know suffered rejection.
- How would you describe a follower of Jesus?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 8:27-38.

If you listen to certain people or read writings by some who claim to know what it means to follow Jesus, you might think that discipleship is about power, worldly success, wealth, and health. Those who describe discipleship in this way do not come close to knowing Jesus as the Messiah (Christ). In Mark 8 Jesus tells the crowd, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (v. 34b). This makes it clear that to know Jesus Christ, is to know the path of rejection, suffering, and death. This reading is a difficult one for those who desire to follow Jesus. As painful as Jesus' description is, taking up the cross results in being freed and not feeling ashamed of Jesus' message, especially when we find ourselves among those who do not accept the power of the cross. This good news, the "gospel" (v. 35), frees us to see Jesus as we take up our crosses and leave behind any fear of powers that destroy life, love, and hope.

*Discuss:* How does faith in Jesus Christ free you from your fears?

*Pray:* **Dear God, you who lift up the lowly, we thank you for Jesus who experiences the pain of rejection, suffering, and death that we may know the cross as the path to life and love. 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 someone who has been rejected by others?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

James 3:1-12 emphasizes that what we say can offer words of encouragement or words that destroy others. Verse 9 encourages us to use our tongues to bless others, not hurt them. Write a list of words or phrases that can be used to encourage others. Think or talk about someone you know who needs to hear words of mercy and kindness and plan to reach out to them. *Pray:* **Lord God, please help us to use our tongues not to hurt others but to care for others and to thank and praise you. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54  
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37