

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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www.kmlchurch.org

October 6, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWENTIETH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.</p> <p>2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.</p> | <p>3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.</p> <p>4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.</p> |
|--|--|

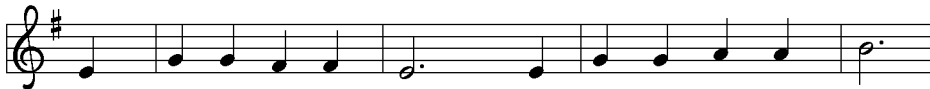
Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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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.

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

- P** Sovereign God,
C you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

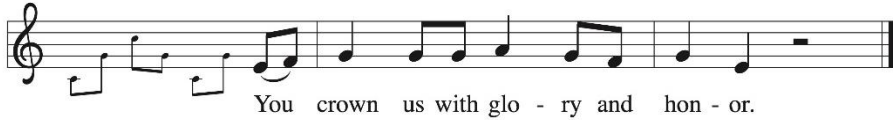
"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8 (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)



- ¹O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them? *Refrain*
⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:
⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
⁹O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to

glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

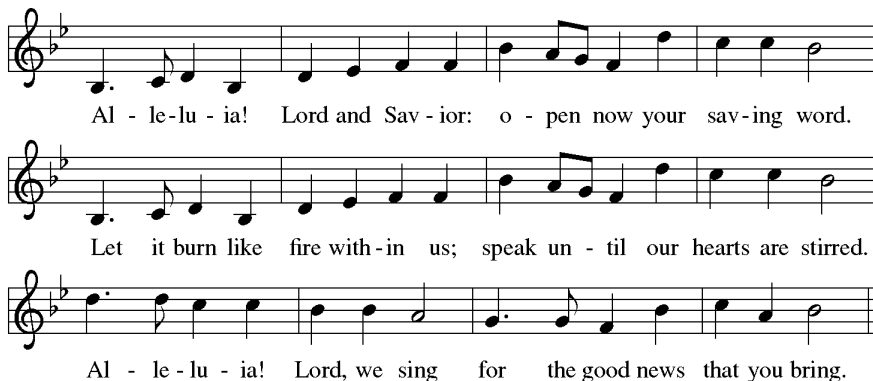
“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

📖 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 10:2-16

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 328

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🙏 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 6th 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

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Our Father, by Whose Name

ELW 640

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Our Father, by whose name
all parenthood is known,
in love divine you claim
each fam'ly as your own.
Bless mothers, fathers, guarding well,
with constant love as sentinel,
the homes in which your people dwell.</p> | <p>2 O Christ, yourself a child
within an earthly home,
with heart still undefiled
to full adulthood come:
our children bless in ev'ry place
that they may all behold your face
and, knowing you, may grow in grace.</p> |
| <p>3 O Holy Spirit, bind
our hearts in unity
and teach us how to find
the love from self set free;
in all our hearts such love increase
that ev'ry home, by this release,
may be the dwelling place of peace.</p> | |

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(sit)

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

- P** Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Jim Akers

*Melissa Carlberg
Nathan, Samuel, Elizabeth*

Paul Frerich

Jeremy "JD" & Julie Hoogestraat

Andy Sifers & Amanda Saxen

Brent & Dana VanScoy

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

Nathaniel Blake Wurdeman

see ELW pg 227

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00AM)

- P** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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.**

- P** In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called 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.

- P** *Siblings* in Christ: do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

- P** May almighty God – Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit – who gave you the will to reaffirm your baptismal vows also give you the grace and the strength to uphold them.

People of God: do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

- C** **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

- P** Let us pray: We give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

- C** **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

Sympathy: for the family and friends of Richard Holzer, father of James Holzer

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Nathaniel Blake Wurdeman, son of Brittany West & Brady Wurdeman (10/6/2024)

Prayers this week: Dan & Ginny Rath, brother & sister-in-law of Paul Rath; Judy Williams, mother of Lynn Schneiderman

On-going Care: Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Jessica Hannon, 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Shall I Offer My God

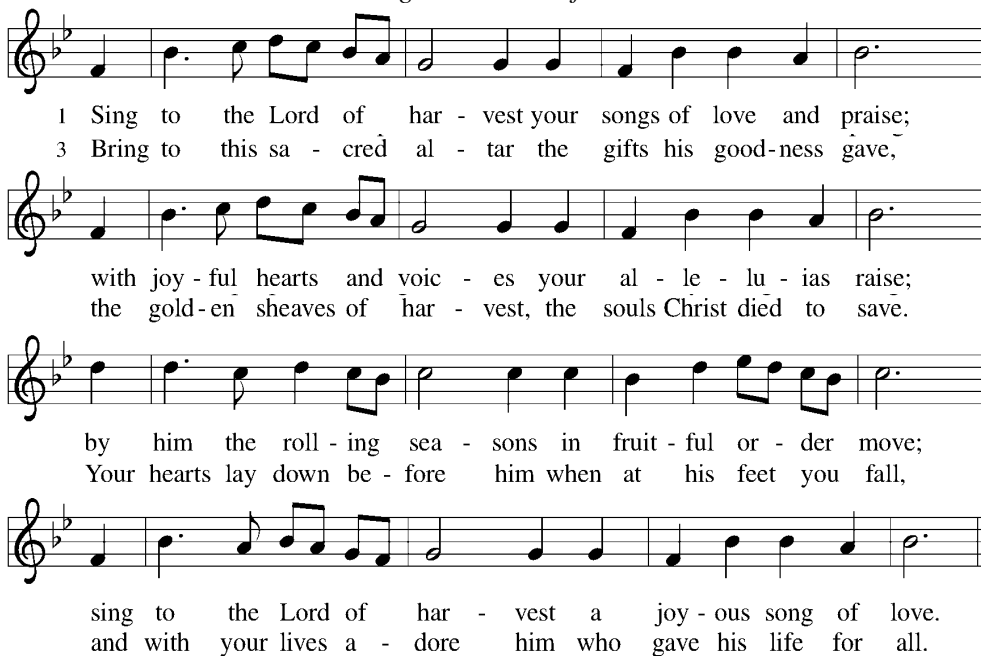
Lloyd Larson

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694 vs. 1 & 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.

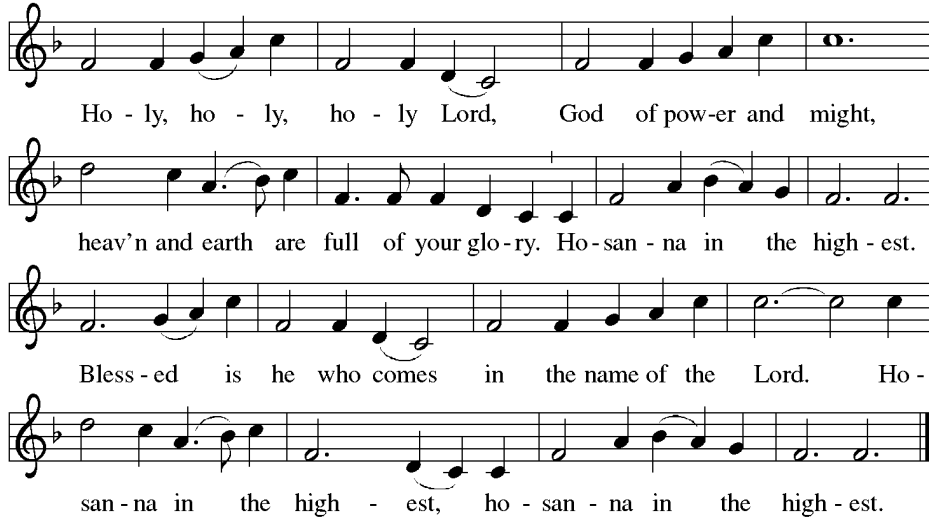
OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God,
☑ 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:

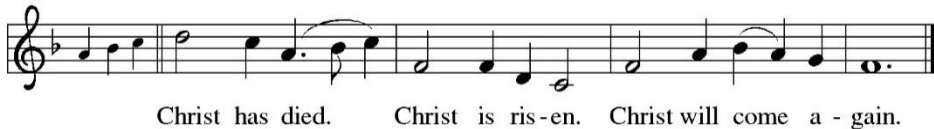
SANCTUS



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

- P** 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.

- P** 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** Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2** God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.

- 3** Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.
- 4** Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

- 1** Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.

- 2** Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.

- 3** Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com

(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

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 839

1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Mark Jones, *organ*

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KOUNTZE STAFF

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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

October 5 & 6, 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 165 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.

Scan to Give Online



Thank you
for
supporting
the
ministries
of Kountze Memorial
Lutheran Church.

Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time
to meet with Pas-
tor Lucy by fol-
lowing the link or
QR Code. [https://
calendly.com/pastor-
lucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min)



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Steve Dragon From Julie Dragon, Alexis & Sophia

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th 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.

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.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd 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*

Welcome New Members!

We're excited to welcome new members to Kountze Memorial this morning. Join us in the Fellowship Hall between services for cake and a chance to celebrate together. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself—we can't wait for you to meet them!

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: Welcoming New Members & Stewardship

Next week: 165th Anniversary Presentation, 3

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 asked 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

This Week at Kountze Memorial

October 6 Sunday

Pentecost 20

Homebound Communion

Receive New Members

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

12:15 PM Worship Assistant Training

R fwrhu# #P rggd|#

10:00 AM Pantry

5:30 PM Personnel Committee

R fwrhu# #xhvgd|#

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

7:30 PM Youth Committee

R fwrhu# #Z hgghvgd|#

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

7:00 PM St. Francis of Assisi @ Trinity Episcopal

R fwrhu# #3 #kxugd|#

Council Reports Due

9:30 AM WELCA Board

11:30 AM Property Committee

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Worship Committee

R fwrhu# #4 #lvgd|#

5:00 PM Pantry

R fwrhu# #5 #dwkugd|#

5:00 PM Worship

R fwrhu# #6 #vxxgd|#

Pentecost 21

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

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

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

10:10 AM Worship Assistant Training

12:15 PM Book Group

12:15 PM First Communion Class

5:00 PM Youth/Young Adult

Haunted House & Fellowship Night!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker

Wednesday, October 9

7:00 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 North 18th Street

Mark your calendars! Kountze Memorial will once again join Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in a service commemorating St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker.

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, October 13

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

The book for this month is *Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson. This is a

hilarious not-to-be-missed murder mystery which is soon to be adapted into an HBO series. Everyone is welcome.

First Communion Classes

Sunday, October 13 or Sunday, October 20

12:15 – 2:00 PM

A light lunch will be served.

Meet with Kristin Boe and Pastor Hall in the Nave. The curriculum will be “Fed & Forgiven”. All ages are welcome; the course is geared toward 2nd graders. Please call the church office, email kristin@kmlchurch.org or sign up at the Welcome Desk. Children will receive their First Communion on Reformation Sunday, October 27.

Haunted House & Fellowship Night

High School & Young Adults

Sunday, October 13

5-6:30 PM – Kountze Memorial (food & fellowship)

7 PM – Dungeon of the Damned

(basement of Hollywood Candy - 1209 Jackson St.)

We want everyone who can make it to come, so if cost is a concern, please reach out to Pastor Lucy! Buy tickets online for \$20 at:

www.dungeonofthedamned.com

Men's Lunch - Octoberfest!

Thursday, October 17

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Join us in the Link for food, fun, and fellowship. Who knows what Jim will have on the menu (rumor has it that there could possibly be brats and homemade sauerkraut...) but it's sure to be good!

Please sign up by Tuesday, October 15 by calling the church office or emailing jim@kmlchurch.org. You can also sign up at the Welcome Desk. Bring a friend. Lederhosen not required.

Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is continuing to collect 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. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the link below.

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

Nebraska Religious Leaders for Hope and Peace

Below is a link to a letter signed by The Rev. Scott Alan Johnson, Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as other religious leaders in Nebraska. They are asking us to *"...choose hope over hate, to build bridges of understanding that reach toward reconciliation, to work together to create communities of peace where all can thrive. We come from different places and different traditions, but we stand together in hope..."*

<https://nebrasksynod.org/news/hopeandpeace/>



Just a reminder that neither the office staff nor the Pastors will ever ask you to buy gift cards or ask if you have a few minutes to talk without any other information given. Please do not respond to these emails and it should be blocked and reported. If you're in doubt, look at the email address and if it doesn't come from *name@kmlchurch.org*, it's likely a scam email. You can always call the church office as well just to be sure.

Donate to the Healing Gift Free Clinic Pharmacy Software Update

The Healing Gift Free Clinic is committed to providing essential medical care and prescriptions to our community's most vulnerable populations. To ensure they can continue offering high-quality healthcare, they need to upgrade their pharmacy software. The current pharmacy data management system was designed by a pharmacy volunteer over a decade ago using donated equipment and is outdated. A generous foundation has offered to match your donation dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000.00 to support this critical update. This is an incredible opportunity to double your impact and make a substantial difference in the lives of countless individuals in need. To take advantage of this matching opportunity, please mark your check or online donation as 'matching funds.' Thank you.

Attendance & Giving Thursday, 9/26—Wednesday, 10/2

Saturday: 41

Sunday: 9:00: 148 **11:00:** 70

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 268

Streaming: 47

Pantry Guests Served: 1,070 (inc. 344 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$11,622.34 (Regular) \$7,436.14 (Specials)

\$412.66 (Debt Reduction)

God created us to be in relationships.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children
Monday	Genesis 2:18-24	God creates a human partner
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	God has spoken through Jesus
Wednesday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Good stewards of God's grace
Thursday	Proverbs 13:20	Be wise
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Be ready for the Lord's coming
Saturday	Psalms 8	God honors humanity
Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." **Genesis 2:18 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you created us to have a relationship to you, others, and the whole earth; help us to love all that you create through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you that you care for us and give us this food that we may have strength to serve the creation you give us to cherish. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's care for you give you joy. (Psalm 8)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is your favorite thing to do in God's creation?
- Where do you see the "good" in God's creation?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Genesis 2:18-24.

It is easy to miss the playfulness and depth of this creation story. First, in Genesis 2:18 we discover that, *"It is not good that the man should be alone."* The all-knowing God seems to have difficulty finding the right helper for the human (translated as "man" in the English text). All the possible helpers as partners for the human that God creates (animals of the field and birds of the air) don't work. God is playfully engaging the human to help find the right helpmate. Second, this story includes a relational depth that weaves the language of the human (*ha'adam* in the Hebrew) created out of the earth (*ha'adamah*). The female-male relationship is seen in the creation of the woman out of the rib of the human. The idea of woman as helper is not a submissive role because in the Old Testament, it is God who is seen as the helper. Genesis 2 describes humanity as intimately connected and created to form community and not to be alone. God helps us live lives deeply relational to God, one another, and the earth.

Discuss: Where do you see the importance of relationships in God's creation?

Pray: **Creator God, you intend for us to live in relationship to you, each other, and creation; heal our divisions and give a vision of the joy of life lived together in Jesus Christ. 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 enjoy creation and daily life relationships?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 10:13-16 Jesus told the people to bring the children to him. He placed his hands on the little children and blessed them. One of the most significant spiritual acts a parent, grandparent, or other adult can do for and with a child is to regularly bless them. When we bless a child of God of any age we declare and convey God's favor to them and give them the hope and assurance of God's loving care. Bless a child of God using the words from *A Blessing to Give*: **May God's care for you give you joy.** (Psalm 8)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31