

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

February 16, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- ☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- ☑ **Amen.**
  
- ☐ Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
  
- ☑ **We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**
  
- ☐ Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
  
- ☑ **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.**
  
- ☐ Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☑ **Amen.**

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 Gracious God, I come before thee;  
come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou,  
let it be thy temple now!
- 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,  
here thy seed is duly sown;  
let my soul, where it is planted,  
bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be  
fruitful unto life in me.
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,  
let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee  
while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows;  
here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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.

### KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,  
 let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**  
 Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.  
**A - men.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Living God,
- C** in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### WORD

(sit)

#### FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

**T**hus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 1** (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)



They are like trees plant -ed by streams of wa - ter.

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

<sup>2</sup> Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. *Refrain*

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

everything they | do shall prosper.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. *Refrain*

**SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

**N**ow if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**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. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 6:17-26**

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.<sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.<sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

☐ 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*

- 1** Let streams of living justice  
flow down upon the earth;  
give freedom's light to captives,  
let all the poor have worth.  
The hungry's hands are pleading,  
the workers claim their rights,  
the mourners long for laughter,  
the blinded seek for sight.  
Make liberty a beacon,  
strike down the iron pow'r;  
abolish ancient vengeance:  
proclaim your people's hour.
- 2** For healing of the nations,  
for peace that will not end,  
for love that makes us lovers,  
God grant us grace to mend.  
Weave our varied gifts together;  
knit our lives as they are spun;  
on your loom of time enroll us  
till our thread of life is run.  
O great weaver of our fabric,  
bind church and world in one;  
dye our texture with your radiance,  
light our colors with your sun.
- 3** Your city's built to music;  
we are the stones you seek;  
your harmony is language;  
we are the words you speak.  
Our faith we find in service,  
our hope in others' dreams,  
our love in hand of neighbor;  
our homeland brightly gleams.  
Inscribe our hearts with justice;  
your way—the path untried;  
your truth—the heart of stranger;  
your life—the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

**THE APOSTLES CREED**

- P** With the whole church, let us 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.**

## **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 Barb Chrisman and Greta Jones

**Prayers this week:** David Kendall; son of Ken & Chris Kendall

**On-going Care:** Sharon Ambler, Cheri Biggs, John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Jessica Hannon, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Dayle Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Tracey Mason, Lara McCormick, Lynn Meyer, Sandi Miller, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Myron Osentowski, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Samaria, Dorothy Stanzel, 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

**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* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

## **THE PEACE IS SHARED**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Blessed Are They*

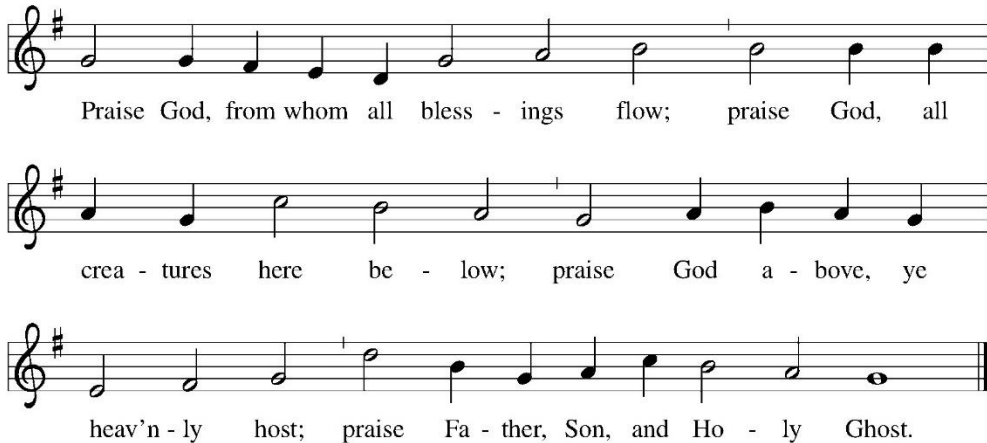
Lee Dengler

(rise in body or spirit)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW 885



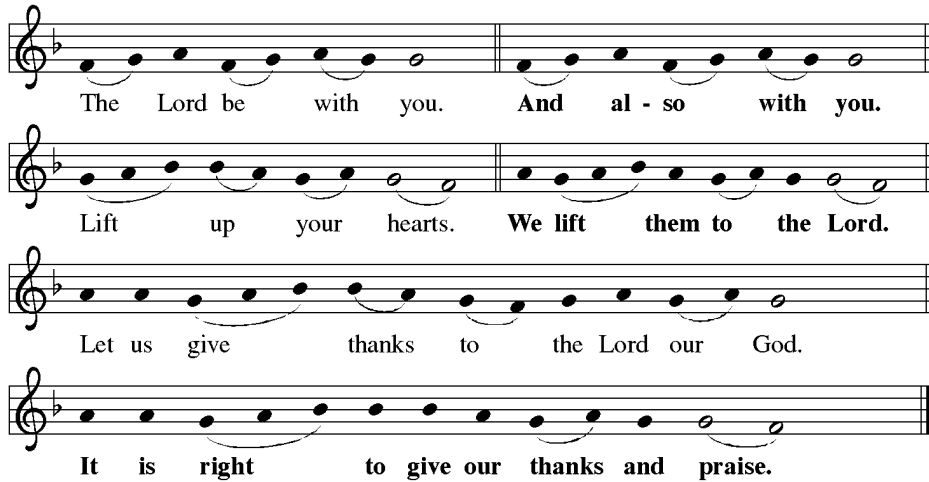
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

### OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ God of grace,
- ☑ **your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

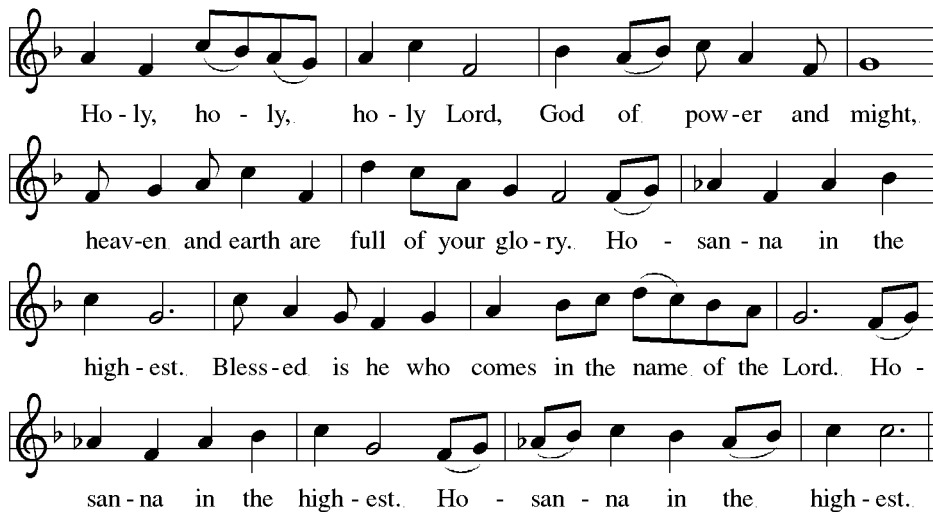


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

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

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

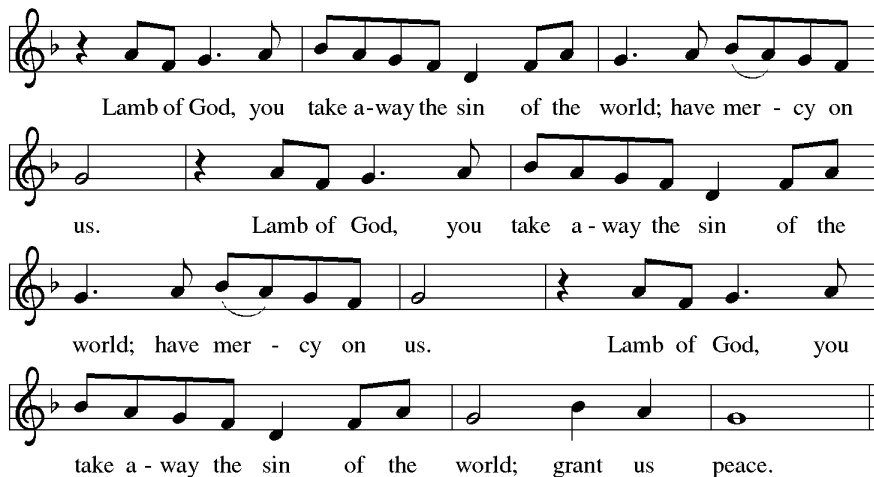
**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

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

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

## AGNUS DEI



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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**C** **The joy of the Lord is our strength.**

(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 All who hunger gather gladly;  
holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**
  
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**
  
- 3 All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor - row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.  
 2 For if Christ is not a - ris - en there is noth - ing to be - lieve.  
 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.  
 Je - sus' prom - ise is ac - comp - lished: "Since I live, you too shall live."  
 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?  
 Dust we are, to dust re - turn - ing, but in Christ we are re - stored.  
 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.  
 Doubt dis - pel - ling, claim the tri - umph: Je - sus is the liv - ing Lord!  
 Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

Text: Nicolás Martínez, 1917–1972; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951  
 English text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Nourishing God,

☑ **at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

**ELW 886 vs. 1, 2, 5, 6**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing<br/>my great Redeemer's praise,<br/>the glories of my God and King,<br/>the triumphs of his grace!</p> <p><b>2</b> My gracious Master and my God,<br/>assist me to proclaim,<br/>to spread through all the earth abroad<br/>the honors of your name.</p> | <p><b>5</b> Look unto him, your Savior own,<br/>O fallen human race!<br/>Look and be saved through faith alone,<br/>be justified by grace!</p> <p><b>6</b> To God all glory, praise, and love<br/>be now and ever giv'n<br/>by saints below and saints above,<br/>the church in earth and heav'n.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Live in hope.  
☞ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠      ✠      ✠

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## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

February 15 & 16, 2025

*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 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 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 celebration of Bob Johnson's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of Marvin Andersen given by his family

### 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.

### 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 - 10:50 AM

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

The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs while listening to the lessons of the day (the same breakfast that is being served in the Fellowship Hall). If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with breakfast.

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Youth Forum Youth Center 10:10 AM Grades 7—12

You are invited to join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

2/16 Youth table in Forum - Congregational Mtg.  
2/23 Mardi Gras!

### 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:** Congregational Meeting



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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### February 16 Sunday

Epiphany 6  
Confirmation Retreat  
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—  
Congregational Meeting

### February 17 Monday

President's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

No Pantry

Confirmation Retreat

### February 18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

### February 19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
~~6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy~~

### February 20 Thursday

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

### February 21 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 22 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### February 23 Sunday

Epiphany 7  
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

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Sunday School Needs Your Empty TP Rolls

We are saving toilet paper rolls for a Sunday School project. Please bring your empty rolls to the Sunday School office throughout the month of February. Thank you!

### Men's Lunch

#### Thursday, February 20

11:30 AM

#### Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Join us for the February men's lunch. We will be celebrating National Pig Day a week early, and you guessed it: we'll have pork on the menu. Who knows what else Jim will have cooked up, but it's sure to be a good time. Come hungry and please sign up at the welcome desk or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, February 18.

### Del and Lou Ann Weber

#### Healing Gift Free Clinic

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

#### Tuesday, February 25

Reception: 4:30— 6:30 PM

Born from a mission at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, where it initially operated within Sunday school

classrooms, the HGFC has evolved into an independent 501 (c)(3) nonprofit now housed at the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. This all-volunteer clinic, complete with a licensed pharmacy, provides free medical care to underserved individuals, emphasizing well-being for the body, mind, and spirit. HGFC's dedicated team of volunteer healthcare professionals offers a wide array of medical services for both acute and chronic conditions. All services, including prescribed medications, are provided at no cost. The clinic relies entirely on the generous contributions of time and expertise from its staff and medical volunteers. HGFC invites the Kountze community to join in celebrating this milestone and consider supporting their continued mission of providing vital healthcare to those in need.

### Scholarships

#### Deadline to Apply: March 1

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at:

[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org) and go to Grow > Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

**Applications are due on March 1, 2025. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.**

**Please note:** Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail, in person to the church office, or by e-mail to [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)

### Table Grace 2025 Gala

Friday, March 7

6-9 PM

#### Livestock Exchange Ballroom

4920 South 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha

We are invited to a wonderful evening of food, entertainment, and giving. The Gala will not only help raise money for those who are hungry but also help give them a hand up in life - providing meals with dignity and an opportunity to start a new life with training and job experience. The Gala will feature stories of impact that will be shared around the tables by people who have experienced transformative life changes through Table Grace first-hand. Starting at 6 PM with a Cocktail hour and Silent Auction. Followed by heavy hors d'oeuvres and program at 7 PM and finishing with a live auction at 8 PM. More information about *The Making of Table Grace*, the Musical Documentary will be revealed at the event! tickets & info are available at:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/bd7fb5ee-eba5-4998-9b9c-53f852e5555b>

### KMLC Camp Week

Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 15-20

Join your Kountze friends at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Spend the week making new friends, spending time in nature, and growing in faith through song, lessons, and testimonies. If you didn't register by the Early Bird registration date, you will need to pay the additional cost and Kountze Memorial will cover the rest of the registration for any Kountze Memorial child/youth. Kountze Camp Week is June 15—20, 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. 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 [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org) and we will submit the Early Bird payment on behalf of your youth.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office. To register, use the link below and follow the directions above:

<http://NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register>

### Youth Mission Trip

Kountze Memorial will join other high school youth and leaders from around the Nebraska Synod this summer on mission in Nashville. The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth who have completed grades 8-12 by the summer of 2025 and their adult leaders. The 2025 Journey to Nashville will feature service learning throughout the Nashville area, worship, fellowship and other activities throughout the city. We will use our gifts as we grow in our faith together and learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table.

- Date: July 6-12, 2025
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost of event: \$680/person
- We will fundraise to offset the cost to families
- Contact Pr. Lucy or Kristin Boe if you are interested!

Our youth are kicking-off the fundraising for this trip with an Envelope Tree. Just like last year, we ask you to support our youth by taking an envelope and putting a donation inside matching the number on the envelope before returning it. Checks/envelopes should be made out to Kountze Memorial and clearly marked "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Many, many thanks!



**KMLC Camp Week**  
**Camp Carol Joy Holling**  
**June 15-20**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**July 20-23**  
**Ages 2 Years to Grade 5**  
**5:15 PM: Family Dinner**  
**6-8 PM: Class**

### Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, February 6—Wednesday, February 12**

**Saturday:** 21

**Sunday: 9:00:** 176 **11:00:** 65

**Wednesday: 12:15:** (No Service—Snow Day)

**Total:** 262

**Streaming:** 68

**Pantry Guests Served:** 818 (inc. 270 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 23

**Offering:**

\$38,275.14 (Regular) \$1,285.91 (Specials)

\$257.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus tells us we are blessed right now.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 6:17-26	Sermon on the plain
Monday	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Trust in the Lord
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	The resurrection of the dead
Wednesday	Acts 13:26-39	Bring the good news
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalm 1	Blessed are the faithful
Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies



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In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." Luke 6:21 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, bless your people like a tree planted by water that bears fruit, even during dry seasons, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen. (Psalm 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food give strength to our bodies and your word of life feed our souls with peace and contentment. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace and contentment.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Do you feel blessed right now? Explain.
- For a follower of Jesus, what does it mean to be blessed?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 6:17-26.

It is understandable to say we are blessed when good things happen to us. However, Jesus reverses this thinking by addressing the poor, the hungry, those weeping, and those hated. In a reversal of fortunes, they will be the ones who receive riches, food, laughter, and joy. Because of this, Jesus calls them blessed right now. The reverse is true for those who seem to be enjoying life now. They are called cursed. Jesus presents a view of life with very different standards and rewards than most people expect. Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17 also offer this alternative view of life and prosperity. Trusting the teachings of God gives a blessed life, not human powers filled with bad intentions (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus and Jeremiah, the writer of Psalm 1, honor a life that trusts God's word above all else. This is the faith that blesses us with contentment, even joy. Hear and believe Jesus' words from Luke 6 that you, as a follower of Jesus, are blessed, no matter your circumstances.

*Discuss:* Is it easy or difficult for you to trust that you are blessed right now by Jesus?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, your future is filled with good things for those who trust you; give us hearts to trust that your future is filled with grace and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help those who are poor or hungry?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Blessing others is an ancient tradition, a way to speak of God's love and care. It often comes with a physical gesture. It is the act of a faith community that communicates God's word of peace and joy. Offer a blessing to another person, perhaps to a family member when they leave the house or go to bed, or to a friend when you depart from each other's company. When you do so, make the sign of the cross on that person's forehead or hand as a reminder of God's baptismal promise.

*Say:* **May God bless you with peace and joy.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38