

# 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 23, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*



# 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 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

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** O Lord Jesus,

**C** make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)

The low - ly shall pos - sess the land; they will de -  
light in a - bun - dance of peace.

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by | evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> For they shall soon wither | like the grass,  
and like the green grass | fade away.

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the Lord | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Take delight | in the Lord,  
who shall give you your | heart’s desire. *Refrain*

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust | in the Lord,  
and see what | God will do.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord will make your vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. *Refrain*

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- | sess the land.

<sup>10</sup> In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup> But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O Lord;  
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup> You, O Lord, will help them and | rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge. *Refrain*

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

**B**ut someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool!  
What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the  
body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as  
he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is  
imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in  
power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a  
spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became  
a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The  
first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so  
are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we  
have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.


<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,  
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 6:27-38**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

Jesus said: <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** 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.*

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR 9:00 AM

*Do, Lord*

arr. H. Voss

## SERMON

*Pastor Wynard*



*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*

**ELW 651 vs. 1, 3, 4**

**1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r  
that tumbles walls of fear  
and gathers in one house of faith  
all strangers far and near:**

*Refrain*

**We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!**

**3 Oh, praise inclusive love,  
encircling ev'ry race,  
oblivious to gender, wealth,  
to social rank or place: *Refrain***

**4 Oh, praise the word of faith  
that claims us as God's own,  
a living temple built on Christ,  
our rock and cornerstone: *Refrain***

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Text from New Hymns for the Lectionary © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

## **THE APOSTLES CREED**

**☩** With the whole church, let us 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** 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:** to the family and friends of Sandi Miller; sister of Pr. Dean Bard

**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, 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.  
**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

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

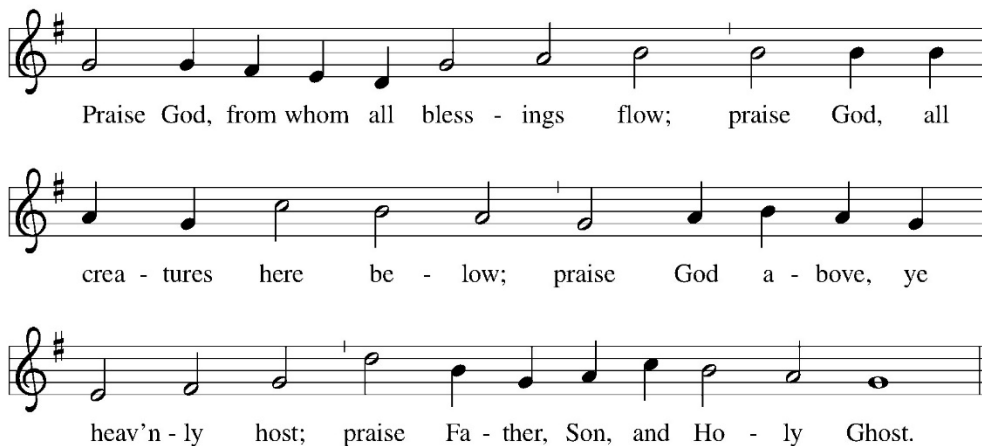
John Carter  
Kai Johnson, *violin*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW 885



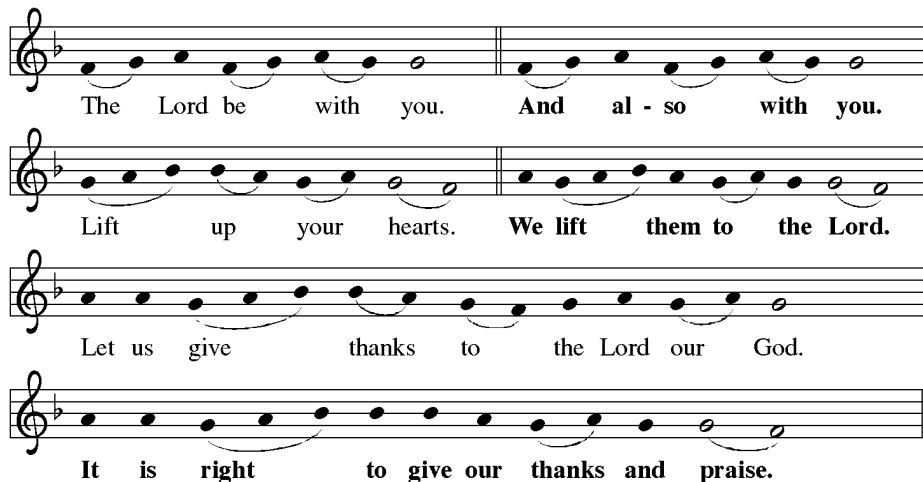
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

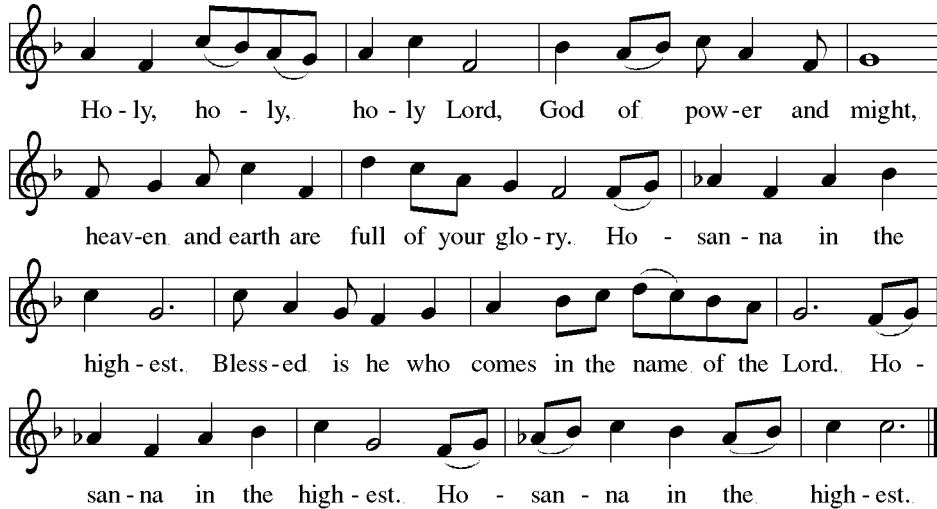


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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

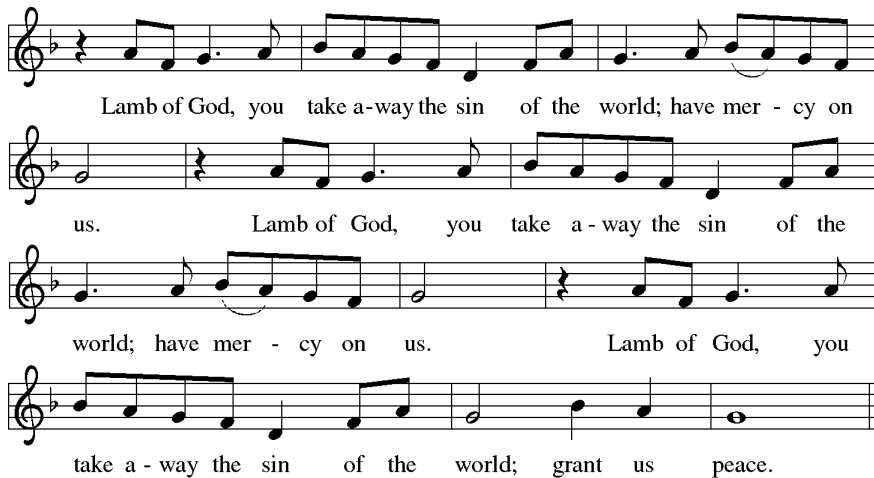
☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **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.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> I come with joy, a child of God,<br/>         forgiven, loved, and free,<br/>         the life of Jesus to recall<br/>         in love laid down for me,<br/>         in love laid down for me.</p> <p><b>2</b> I come with Christians far and near<br/>         to find, as all are fed,<br/>         the new community of love<br/>         in Christ's communion bread,<br/>         in Christ's communion bread.</p> | <p><b>3</b> As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,<br/>         each proud division ends.<br/>         The love that made us, makes us one,<br/>         and strangers now are friends,<br/>         and strangers now are friends.</p> <p><b>4</b> The Spirit of the risen Christ,<br/>         unseen, but ever near,<br/>         is in such friendship better known,<br/>         alive among us here,<br/>         alive among us here.</p> |
|--|---|
- 5** Together met, together bound  
 by all that God has done,  
 we'll go with joy, to give the world  
 the love that makes us one,  
 the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

ELW 605

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"<br/>         you taught us, Lord, to pray;<br/>         but you alone can grant us grace<br/>         to live the words we say.</p> <p><b>2</b> How can your pardon reach and bless<br/>         the unforgiving heart<br/>         that broods on wrongs and will not let<br/>         old bitterness depart?</p> | <p><b>3</b> In blazing light your cross reveals<br/>         the truth we dimly knew:<br/>         how trifling others' debts to us;<br/>         how great our debt to you!</p> <p><b>4</b> Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls<br/>         and bid resentment cease;<br/>         then, by your mercy reconciled,<br/>         our lives will spread your peace.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.

Text © Oxford University Press 1969

*(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

*God, When Human Bonds Are Broken*

**ELW 603 vs. 1, 3-5**

- |          |  |          |   |
|----------|--|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>God, when human bonds are broken<br/>and we lack the love or skill<br/>to restore the hope of healing,<br/>give us grace and make us still.</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>Send us, God of new beginnings,<br/>humbly hopeful into life.<br/>Use us as a means of blessing:<br/>make us stronger, give us faith.</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>You in us are bruised and broken:<br/>hear us as we seek release<br/>from the pain of earlier living;<br/>set us free and grant us peace.</b>   | <b>5</b> | <b>Give us faith to be more faithful,<br/>give us hope to be more true,<br/>give us love to go on learning:<br/>God, encourage and renew!</b> |

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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## 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 22 & 23, 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

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

### 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. Thank you to our Children's Choir this morning for sharing their musical talents with us.

### 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.  
2/23 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:** Preview of Lent

**Next week:** During the month of March, we'll start a study of the Council of Nicaea, its content, and the upcoming 1,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Join us.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### February 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### February 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
9:00 AM Assemble Good News  
12:30 PM Circle 3  
4:30 PM HGFC Open House

### February 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00—8 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

### February 27 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### February 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### March 1 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
Scholarship Application Deadline  
5:00 PM Worship

### March 2 Sunday

Homebound Communion  
Transfiguration of Our Lord  
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

### Good News “Collating Party”

#### Tuesday, February 25

##### 9:00 AM

As we gear up for another edition of the Good News, we're reaching out to you for a little extra support in the collating department. And, we serve lunch! So, if you're up for a bit of teamwork and a whole lot of fun, join us in this delightful adventure of collating camaraderie. If you're able to lend a hand in this behind-the-scenes task, please call the church office to let us know so we can plan for lunch. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our church community in such a meaningful way.

### 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 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

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

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!

### **Kountze Food Pantry**

The Kountze Pantry is still collecting gloves for men, women, and children. Men's large and extra-large gloves are especially in short supply. Also, we will accept and distribute new or like-new coats to our Pantry guests if they request them. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry", located in Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are located on the box. 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>

### **Attendance & Giving**

**Thursday, February 13—Wednesday, February 19**

**Saturday:** 21

**Sunday: 9:00:** 132 **11:00:** 62

**Wednesday: 12:15:** (Snow Day)

**Total:** 194

**Streaming:** 59

**Pantry Guests Served:** 183 (inc. 61 children) (Friday Only)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 23

**Offering:**

\$28,932.49 (Regular) \$1,867.53 (Specials)

\$257.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Showing love and mercy is a lifelong journey.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 6:27-38	Love for enemies
Monday	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Joseph reveals himself
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	The resurrection body
Wednesday	Genesis 43:16-34	Joseph is merciful and kind
Thursday	Psalms 25:6-10	A prayer for guidance
Friday	1 John 2:7-17	A new commandment
Saturday	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured



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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

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:36-37 (NRSV)

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to follow the way of Jesus and do to others as we would want others to do to us. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food give us strength to overcome anger and anxiety with love and mercy, through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God show you mercy and forgiveness.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If someone stole from you, what do you think should happen to them?
- What is difficult about showing mercy to those who hurt you? What are the benefits of showing kindness?

## DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 6:27-38.

Even Jesus understands that his words to “love your enemies; do good to those who hate you” (v.27) sound challenging and are very hard to do. People don’t want to hear about kindness to those who don’t deserve it. No one wants to be abused or walked on. How do we experience the blessings of showing mercy, forgiveness, and love for our enemies? We are not going to learn it from a desire for power and dominance. Power can too easily lead to abuse of power. There are too many wars, bullies at school, and violence on the streets and in the news. It will take a lifetime for the disciples of Jesus to learn the importance—even power—of mercy from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That is why Jesus’ sermon in this reading is a call to a lifetime of work. We will have to listen and try to believe it and yet fail many times along the way.

Discuss: When have you seen mercy and forgiveness work for good?

Pray: Almighty God, be our comfort and strength as we learn what it means to show mercy, forgiveness, and love for enemies. In Christ Jesus we pray, 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 show forgiveness to someone who hurt you?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 encourages us to trust the Lord when we are mistreated. Feeling mistreated by others can make us feel hurt and our relationship with them changes. Write a list of people who you have hurt or have hurt you in the past. Say the Lord’s Prayer. Pause for a moment of silence after “forgive us our trespasses [sins or debts] as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Then read the names you have written before finishing the prayer.

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]