

# 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)

March 16, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY in LENT



*Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."*



## 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** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from who no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your heart through faith.

**C** Amen.

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, 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 a - bove, 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,



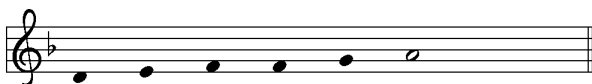
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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** God of the covenant,

**C** in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

*(sit)*

### FIRST READING

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."<sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."<sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."<sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"<sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."<sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 27** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of  
the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make  
music to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message “Seek my face.”**

**Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord

in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the Lord and be strong.**

**Take heart and wait for the Lord!**

**SECOND READING**

**Philippians 3:17—4:1**

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

**B**rothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

- P** Return to the Lord your God,
- C** **for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**
  
- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 13:31-35**

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

**A**t that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

- 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.*

## **SERMON**

*Pastor Wynard*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

**ELW 727 vs. 1 & 4**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Lord Christ, when first you came to earth,<br/>upon a cross they bound you,<br/>and mocked your saving kingship's worth<br/>by thorns with which they crowned you.<br/>And still our wrongs may fashion now<br/>new thorns to pierce that steady brow,<br/>and robe of sorrow round you.</p> | <p><b>4</b> O wounded hands of Jesus, build<br/>in us your new creation;<br/>our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled;<br/>we wait your revelation.<br/>O Love that triumphs over loss,<br/>we bring our hearts before your cross;<br/>come, finish your salvation.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt.



## 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: ☞ God, in your mercy,

☩ **receive our prayer.**

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

**Thanksgiving:** for the marriage of Victoria Schumert & Samuel Sundquist (3/8/2025)

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Leonard “Jerry” Carlson and Pastor Olaf Roynesdal

**Prayers this week:** Becky, Wanda Frykberg, Steve Jacobson, Donna Reinig

**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, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Lynn Meyer, Nita Mueller, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Linda Peltz, Kathy Preininger, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Samaria, 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

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

## MEAL

(sit)

### THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*We Walk By Faith*

Lloyd Larson

(rise in body or spirit)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 359 vs. 1-3



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;



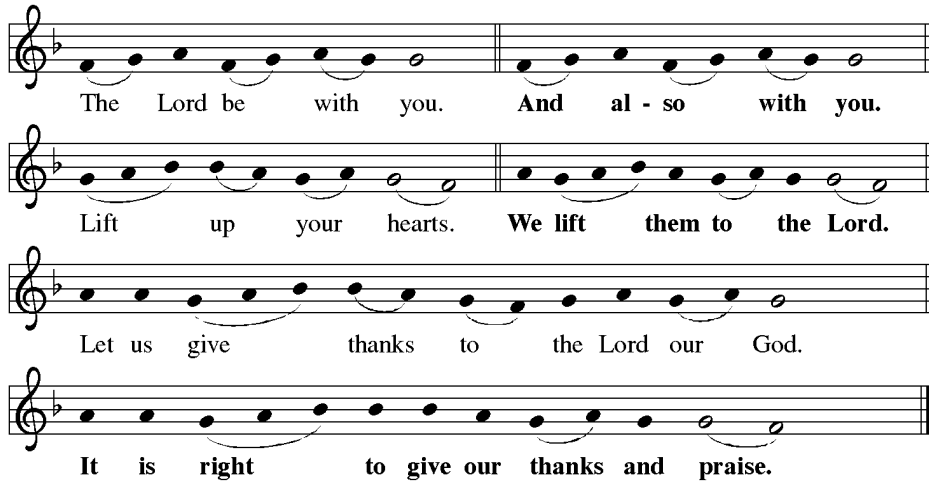
brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.  
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Gracious Provider,
- ☑ **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

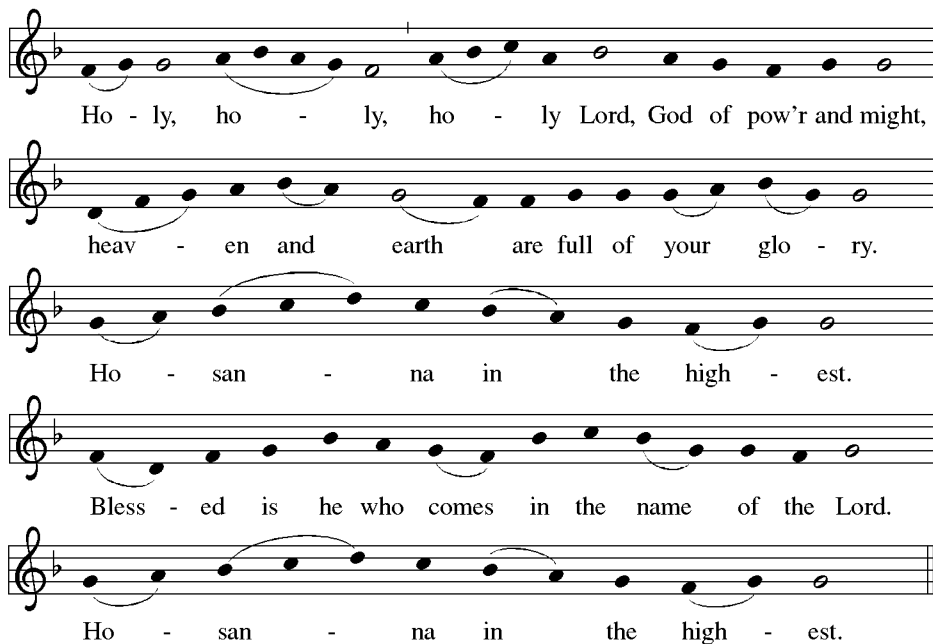


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE FOR LENT

☐ 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'r 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: ...  
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

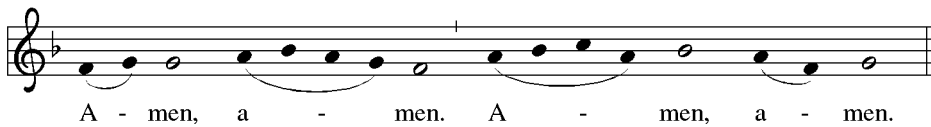
**P** Therefore, O God, ... to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, ... with all your saints in light.

**C** **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** Join our prayers with those of your servants ...  
... almighty Father, now and forever.

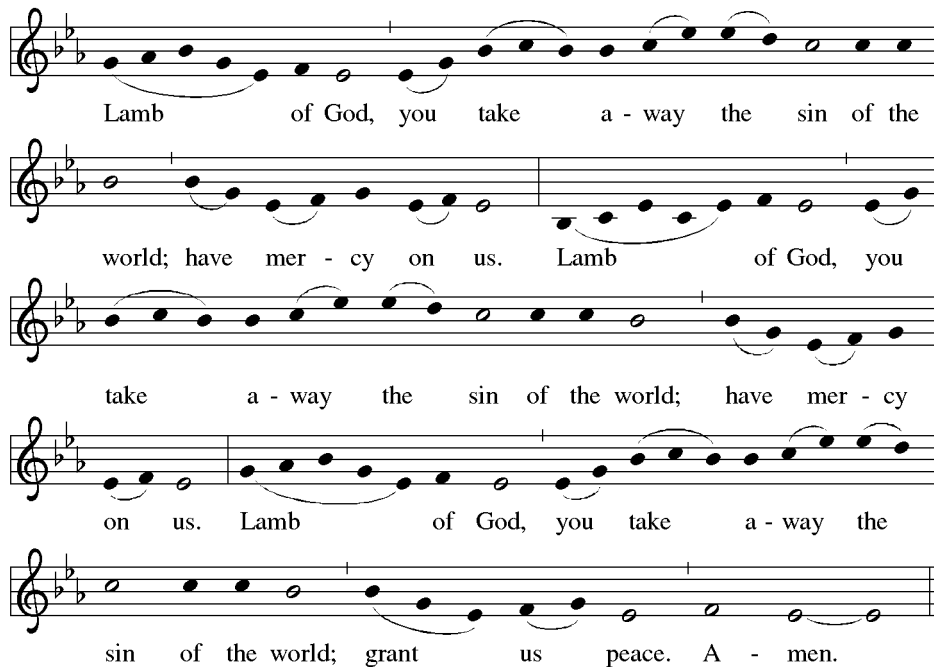


## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## 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. A - men.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ All who are hungry, come!
- ☑ The feast of grace is spread.

(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** Around you, O Lord Jesus,  
your own you gather still  
to share the feast you give us  
with grace our lives to fill.  
You say to us so lovingly,  
“Take, eat! This is my body!  
Take, drink! This is my blood!”

**2** We hear your invitation,  
and heed, O Lord, your call;  
your word of consolation  
is spoken here to all.  
It draws us to your loving heart;  
it brings to us your blessing,  
which never will depart.

**3** We are your own forever;  
until our final breath  
we will be true and never  
in joy, in grief, in death  
depart from you, for you are still  
among your people dwelling,  
as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. composite  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Give Me Jesus*

ELW 770

**1** In the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise,  
give me Jesus.

*Refrain*

Give me Jesus,  
give me Jesus.  
You may have all the rest,  
give me Jesus.

**2** Dark midnight was my cry,  
dark midnight was my cry,  
dark midnight was my cry,  
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

**3** Just about the break of day,  
just about the break of day,  
just about the break of day,  
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

**4** Oh, when I come to die,  
oh, when I come to die,  
oh, when I come to die,  
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

**5** And when I want to sing,  
and when I want to sing,  
and when I want to sing,  
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Generous Host,

☑ you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

**ELW 325**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> I want Jesus to walk with me;<br/>I want Jesus to walk with me;<br/>all along my pilgrim journey,<br/>Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.</p>                          | <p><b>2</b> In my trials, Lord, walk with me;<br/>in my trials, Lord, walk with me;<br/>when my heart is almost breaking,<br/>Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;<br/>when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;<br/>when my head is bowed in sorrow,<br/>Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.</p> |   |

Text: African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
☛ 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 Slight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

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

March 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**

### **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.

- 3/16 Bible study with Tarna Kidder  
3/23 Special speaker— their involvement and history at Kountze Memorial

### 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.

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

### March 16 Sunday

- Lent 2  
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

### March 17 Monday

- 10:00 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### March 18 Tuesday

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

### March 19 Wednesday

- 9:00 AM Sewing Group (postponed from last week)  
11:00 AM Lenten Meal  
12:15 PM Worship  
5:00 PM Lenten Meal  
6:30 PM Worship

### March 20 Thursday

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

### March 21 Friday

- 5:00 PM Pantry

### March 22 Saturday

- 5:00 PM Worship

### March 23 Sunday

- Lent 3  
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

### St. Patrick's Day Dinner Reservations First Christian Church

6630 Dodge Street

March 17

6 - 8 PM

### \$30/pp - Proceeds to benefit Table Grace Café and "It's All About Employment"

It's All About Employment (IAAE) is dedicated to guiding individuals on their journey to becoming employment-ready, enabling them to work and improve their lives. At IAAE collaborates with various agencies in the community to help individuals overcome barriers so they can advance toward their employment goals. For more information or to get your tickets, go to:

[tickets@tablegracecafe.com](mailto:tickets@tablegracecafe.com)

### 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>

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

**Carol Joy Holling 12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Heart of Camp Gala  
Saturday, April 5  
5 - 10 PM  
A View West Shores  
110 S 243<sup>rd</sup> St  
Waterloo, NE**

Join the camp to bring Faith: Alive! by celebrating the work done through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Our participation enables NLOM to provide opportunities to campers no matter their ability to pay for camp. All are welcome here. This will be an evening of fun, auction bidding wars, fellowship with friends, and great food. To find out how to donate items for the silent auction, how to become a sponsor, to buy tickets, or any other information about the Gala, go to:

<https://www.nlom.org/gala/>

**First Communion Classes  
Sundays, April 6 & 13  
12:00 PM (after 11:00 AM Worship)**

Students that have shown an interest in receiving Communion are welcome to join. Around 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email her at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) to sign your child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17.

**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.

- 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!

To help with fundraising for this trip, there are envelopes in the Fellowship Hall. 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 in immediate need of toothbrushes and toothpaste.** We are 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>



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Attendance & Giving	
Thursday, March 6—Wednesday, March 12	
Saturday:	44
Sunday: 9:00:	133
11:00:	78
Wednesday: 12:15:	96
Total:	351
Streaming:	63
Pantry Guests Served:	736 (inc. 226 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served:	17
Offering:	
\$10,833.44 (Regular)	\$6,691.1 (Specials)
\$492.00 (Debt Reduction)	

Jesus' compassion is greater than our misguided ways.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem
Monday	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	God's covenant with Abram
Tuesday	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Stand firm in the Lord
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Helping Christian leaders
Thursday	James 5:7-12	Patience in suffering
Friday	Hebrews 10:19-29	A call to persevere
Saturday	Psalms 27	A song of trust
Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree



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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

*"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I [Jesus] desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing."* **Luke 13:34 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are the source of all goodness and our salvation; give us confidence in your care through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 27:1)

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your love that cares for us with this gift of food, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus be your strength and protection.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How do you respond to someone who is being treated unfairly?
- Jesus stood firm against those who opposed him. Would you do the same? Explain.

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 13:31-35.

Jesus stands firm against powers that oppose him. He opposes the Roman government that alone has the power to execute him. He opposes religious leaders who have killed God's prophets. He speaks against those who cannot or will not see the healing he brings (first described in Luke 4:16-21). Jesus' desire is to gather in misguided people who oppose him, much like a hen gathers in her chicks to protect them. This compassionate image of care is a strong contrast to acts of violence. Jesus refuses to let concern for his safety deter him from his task to go to Jerusalem where he will meet betrayal, suffering, and death. His reference to *"on the third day"* (v. 32) is a clue that his work has not ended until the day of his resurrection. This Lent we reflect on the depth of our misguided ways and the greater depth of God's love in Jesus that will not be stopped.

*Discuss:* How might some of your actions or thoughts appear to be misguided ways?

*Pray:* **Loving God, forgive us when we stray from your compassionate ways and strengthen us to follow Jesus who died that we may live. 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 speak up for someone who is being mistreated?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This second week in Lent we reflect on *"Your kingdom come"* (v. 2b). Add this to verse 2a from the first week in Lent by writing it outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

*Pray:* The Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35