

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

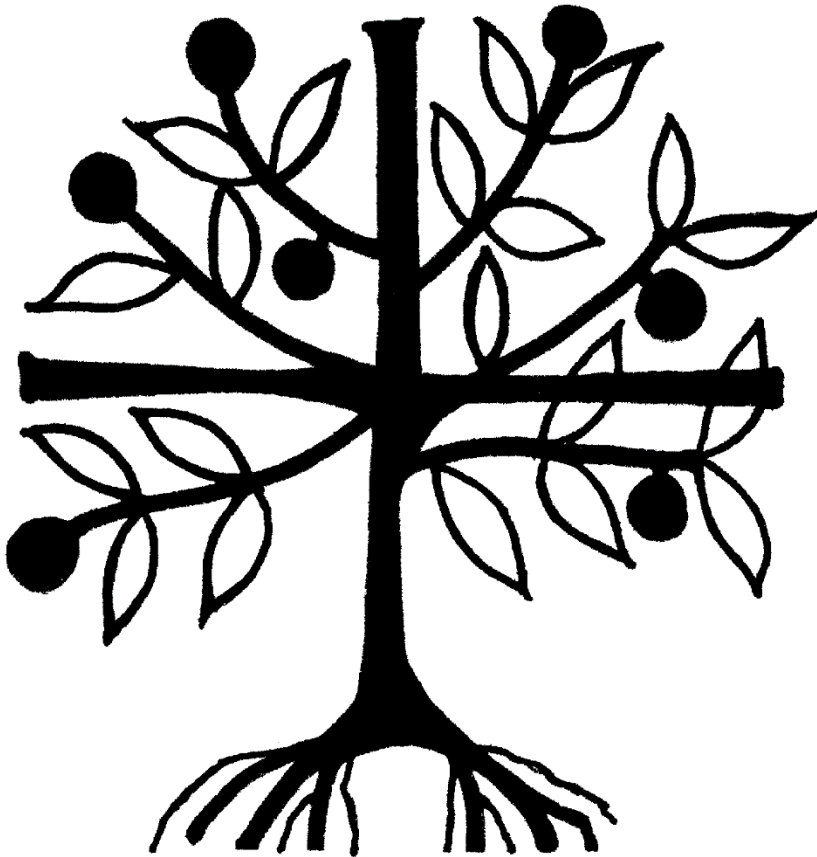
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

March 23, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT



The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.**
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE



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.



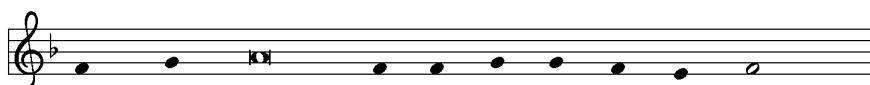
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



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** Eternal God,
C your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms 63:1-8 (*read responsively*)

- ¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- ³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**
- ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- ⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- ⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- ⁸ **My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C 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.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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 Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777 vs. 1, 3, 5

- 1

"Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer,
you would come to me and live."

3

"Come to me, believers burdened;
find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer,
turn to me and seek my face." *Refrain*

5

"Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

Refrain

Jesus, ever flowing fountain,
give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
there is joy no tongue can tell.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374

8

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)

Prayers this week: Wanda Frykberg, Julie Hoogestraat

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, Donna Reinig, 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

As the Deer


words and music by Martin Nystrom
arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

(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;



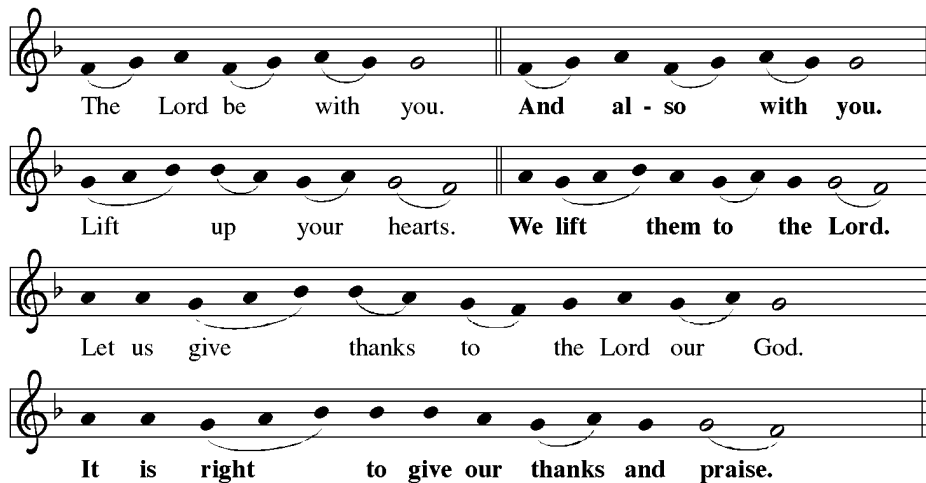
brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.

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.

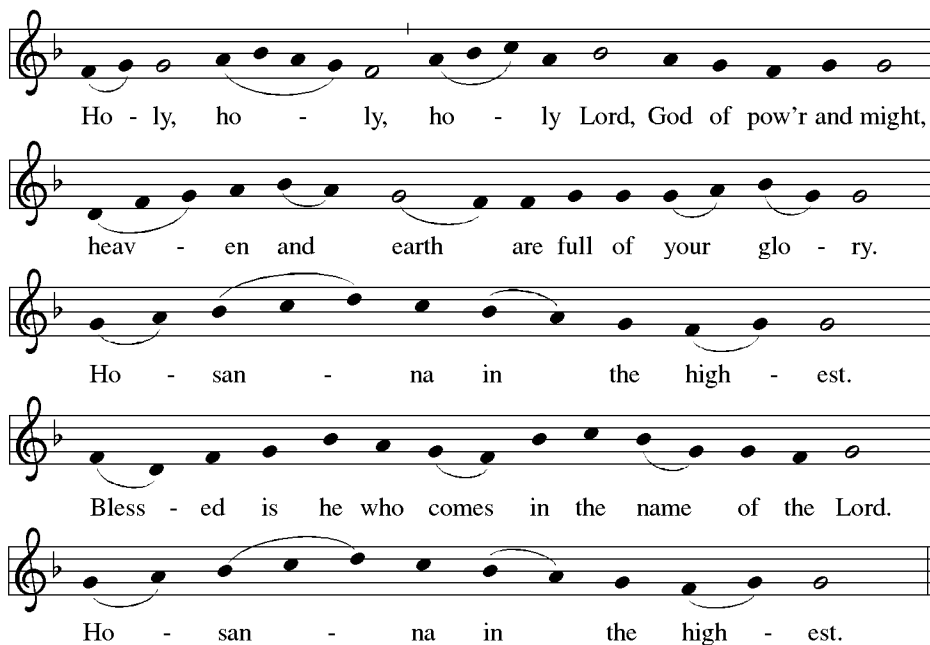
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

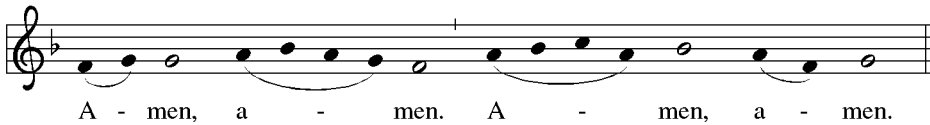
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.



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 O living Bread from heaven,
how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'er flows.
- 2 My Savior, you have led me
within your holiest place,
and here yourself have fed me
with treasures of your grace;
for you have freely given
what earth could never buy,
the bread of life from heaven,
that now I shall not die.
- 3 You gave me all I wanted;
this food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted
the cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
the favor you have shown;
and all my soul and spirit
bow down before your throne.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened
with heav'nly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened,
to serve you, free from fear;
and bring me home to praise you
where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you
glad songs in endless joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

- 1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.
- 2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.
- 3 Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

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

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞** 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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW 545

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.</p> | <p>2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.</p> |
| <p>3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.</p> | |

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

☩ ☩ ☩

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
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 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 Pas-
tor Lucy by fol-
lowing the link or
QR Code. [https://
calendly.com/pastor-
lucy/45min](https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min)



Today at Kountze Memorial

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike & Family

Children's Choir

9:15 AM

K-6th Grades

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen or join Kristin Boe for a Children's Sermon. Children will return to their seats in time to receive communion. 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-6th 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.

3/23 Special speaker— their involvement and history at Kountze Memorial

3/30 Join the adult forum at the youth table

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: Introducing the New Director of KCCOC (pending)

Next week: God as Father, Creator, and Almighty (Nicene Creed)

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

March 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3
7:30 PM Youth Committee

March 26 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
11:00 AM Lenten Meal
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship

March 27 Thursday

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

March 28 Friday

1:05 PM Piano Tuning
5:00 PM Pantry

March 29 Saturday

10:00 AM Vinn Stephens Memorial Service
5:00 PM Worship

March 30 Sunday

Lent 4
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
12:00 PM OSJ Appreciation Lunch

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Good News “Collating Party”

Wednesday, March 26

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! This month, Jim and his Lenten Meal Crew will be serving 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. Please feel free to attend the 12:15 Lenten Worship service at 12:15. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our church community in such a meaningful way.

Sewing Group

Wednesday, March 26

9:00 AM

We're rescheduling the Sewing Group from March 11 that was rescheduled to March 19, to this Wednesday, March 26. It doesn't look like there's a chance of storms, so we should be good! If you would like to come and help, quilting expertise is not necessary. If you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt. Come and join the group this month! You can stay

for lunch and attend the 12:15 service afterward if you would like.

Carol Joy Holling 12th Annual

Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 5

5 - 10 PM

A View West Shores

110 S 243rd 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/>

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 2nd grade is encouraged. Please see Kristin Boe or email her at Kristin@kmlchurch.org to sign your child up for this class. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17.

New Member Classes

April 27 & May 4

10:15 AM

Explore the potential of joining Kountze Memorial by attending our upcoming new member classes. Please plan to attend both sessions. We will welcome new members on Sunday, May 18. Questions or planning to attend? Contact the church office (402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org). We look forward to connecting with you!

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 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:

<https://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.

- 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 also are collecting razors, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, and any form of hand soap. Also inexpensive hand can openers. 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 13—Wednesday, March 19

Saturday: 18

Sunday: 9:00: 150 **11:00:** 79

Wednesday: Snow Day

Total: 247

Streaming: 64

Pantry Guests Served: 690 (inc. 248 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 14

Offering:

\$8,496.50 (Regular) \$2,899.81 (Specials)

\$1,132.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are fed by God's love to bear good fruit.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	John 15:1-11	Jesus the true vine
Thursday	Colossians 1:9-14	Paul thanks God for the Colossians
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father



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as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. Psalm 63:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, feed us with your loving power so that our lives may reflect your love for others through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that feeds us, your love that strengthens us, and your call to love others that inspires us, we give you thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God surround you with love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What difference does it make if you practice something daily?
- What are some of your daily practices that strengthen your faith to live a life of loving service?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 13:1-9.

We can be tempted to evaluate the successes or failures of others and sometimes speculate about their futures. In Luke 13, Jesus stops this speculation and turns our attention back to ourselves to look at our own lives. We are to live lives that reflect a God-centered life (repentance). Our lives are valued and are to bear the fruit of our loving God. In Jesus' parable of the fig tree, the unfruitful tree is not cut down immediately. For three years the tree is nurtured to bear fruit. A fourth year is even added to give it a chance to produce fruit. Our lives are to bear the fruit of God's love in Christ. We must be fed and cared for so that we may bear the fruit of a God-centered life. Our inspiration to be nurtured in faith is not the fear of being cut down but the love of God in Christ that feeds us and frees us to love God and our neighbor.

Discuss: What practices (like prayer, worship, reading Scripture, service, or other Christian traditions) help feed you so that you may bear the fruit of a God-centered life?

Pray: **Nurturing God, you feed us with the power of your love through Christ; help us that we may enjoy a life of repentance through Jesus 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 support and nurture the life of someone else?

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 third week in Lent we reflect on "Give us each day our daily bread" (v. 3). Add this verse to verses 2a and 2b from the first and second weeks in Lent by writing it around the 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: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32