

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

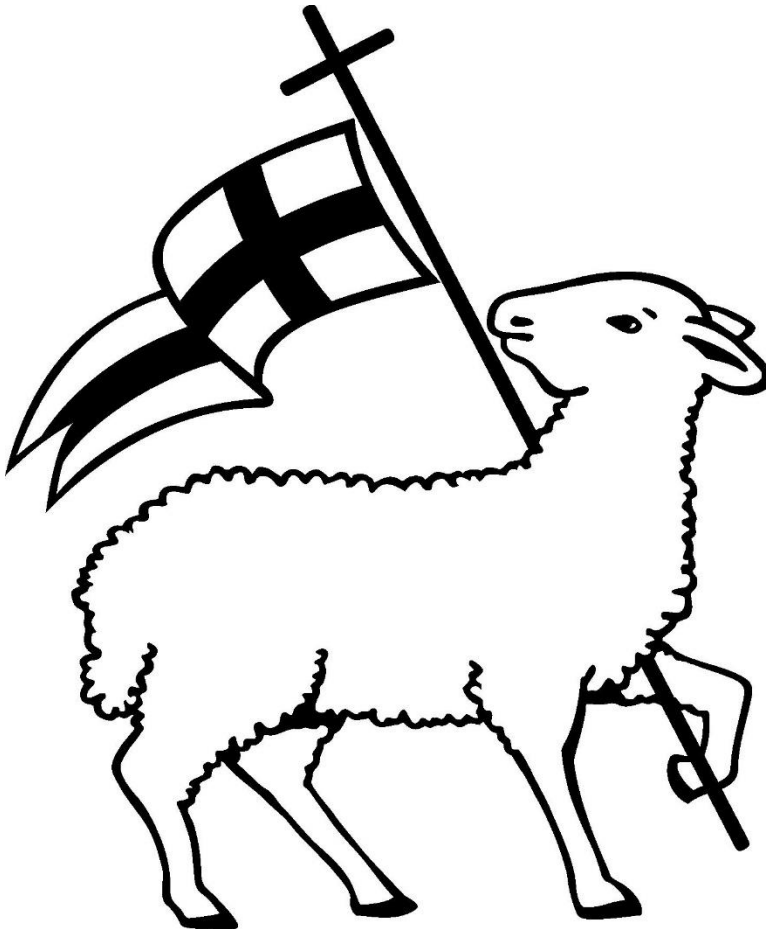
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

May 11, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY in EASTER



The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** In the name of ✠ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.
- C** Amen.

- P** Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

- C** make us one and you are one.

- P** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

- C** make us one as you are one.

- P** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

- C** make us one as you are one.

- P** Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that each day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus,
the Crucified and Risen One.

- C** Amen

1 Holy God, we praise your name;
 Lord of all, we bow before you.
 All on earth your scepter claim,
 all in heav'n above adore you.
 Infinite your vast domain,
 everlasting is your reign.

2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn
 angel choirs above are raising;
 cherubim and seraphim,
 in unceasing chorus praising,
 fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
 "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3 Lo, the apostolic train
 join your sacred name to hallow;
 prophets swell the glad refrain,
 and the white-robed martyrs follow;
 and from morn to set of sun
 through the church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, holy Son,
 Holy Spirit, three we name you,
 though in essence only one;
 undivided God we claim you
 and, adoring, bend the knee
 while we own the mystery.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900


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.

HYMN OF PRAISE


This is the Feast

Refrain
 Assisting minister




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.


All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God of peace,
- C** you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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

Acts 9:36-43

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 520

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

 Word of God, Word of Life.

 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

*(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, all may sing lines in **bold print**)*



- ¹ The Lord [|] is my shepherd;
I shall not [|] be in want.
- ² **The Lord makes me lie down [|] in green pastures**
and leads me be- [|] side still waters.
- ³ You restore my [|] soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways [|] for your name’s sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall [|] fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they [|] comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence [|] of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is [|] running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days [|] of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the [|] Lord forever.

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

L Word of God, Word of Life.

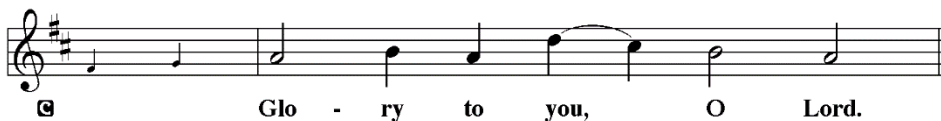
C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.



HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered, “I

have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one.”

 The Gospel of the Lord.

 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

ed. by Barbara Kortrey

CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM
Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Thee Is Gladness

ELW 867

- 1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven,
thou the true redeemer art.
Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest.
Who trusts thee surely has built securely
and stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining,
dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
naught can us sever: Alleluia!
- 2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers,
not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses;
he can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of his glory
with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
in him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,
love him and praise him and still shall raise him
glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt

THE NICENE CREED

**☩ We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

(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 Lauren Salerno & Ben Hammer (5/10/2025)

Prayers this week: Riley Hoven, Dale Grundman (father of Aundrea Grundman) Wanda Frykberg, Brian Miller

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, Julie Hoogestraat, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Nita Mueller, 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: *Seminarrians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. You may use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

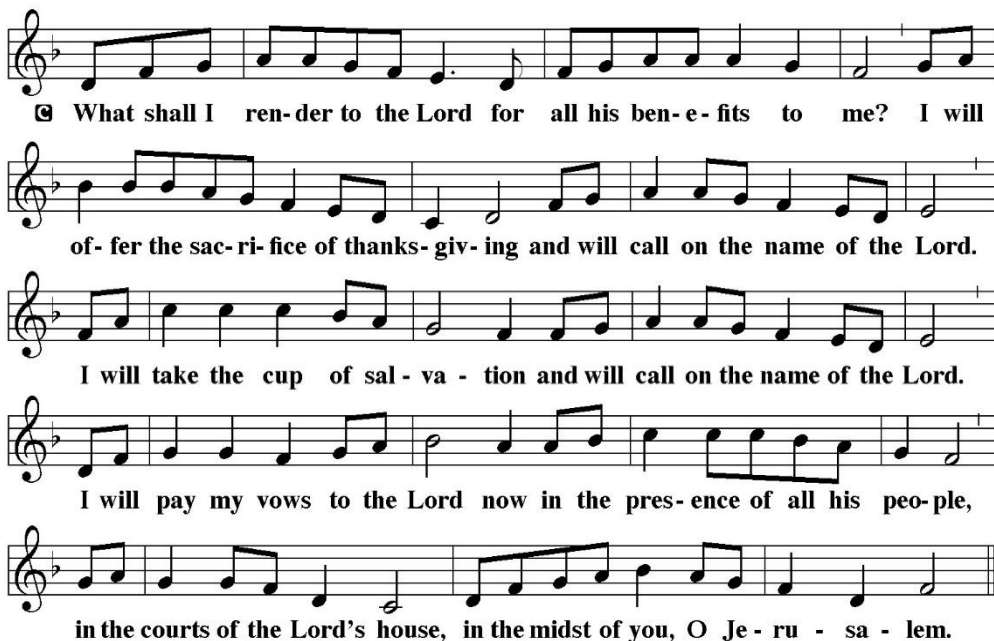
Shepherd of My Soul

words by Susan Naus Dengler
music by Lee Dengler

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Shall I Render to the Lord



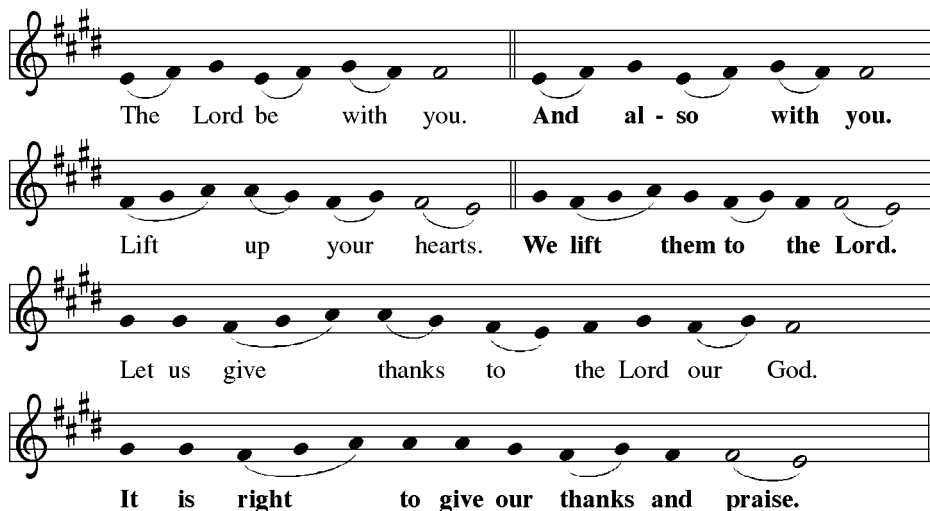
What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will
of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Risen One,

C you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

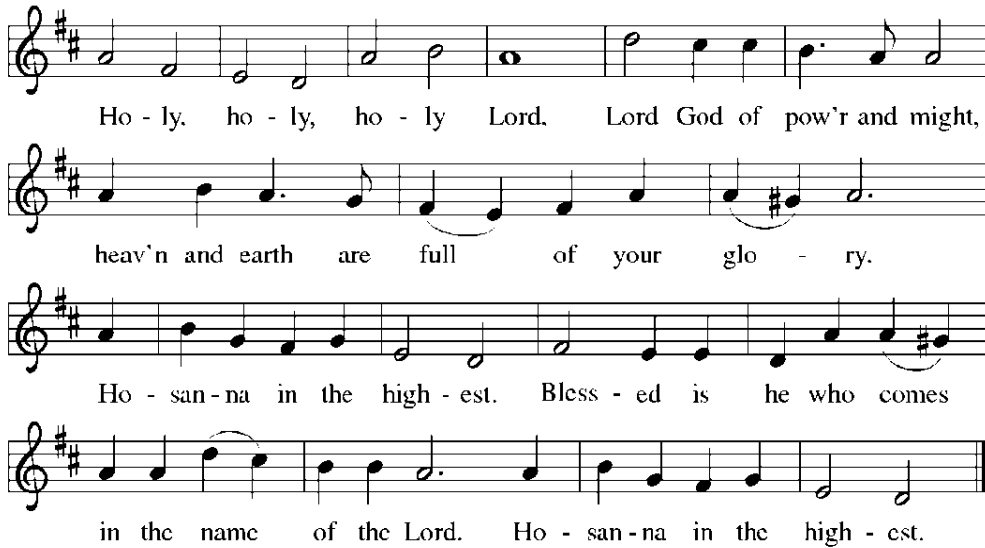
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

- ☐ O God of resurrection and new life: ...
... Grace our table with your presence.
- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- ☐ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread ...
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- ☐ With your holy ones ... we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

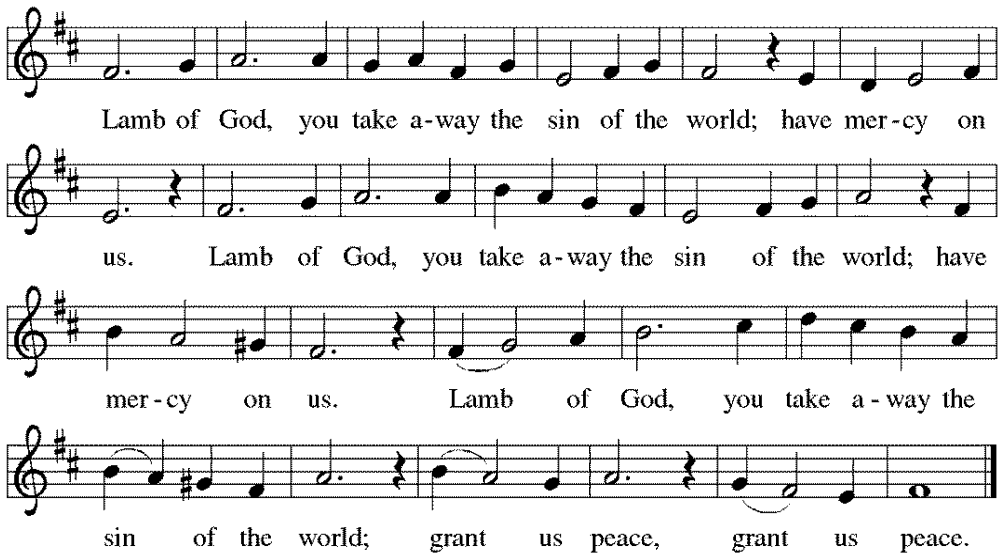
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

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

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

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

AGNUS DEI



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and receive the gift of new life.

C We come to the table of grace.

(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>1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs
with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
but all their joys are one.</p> <p>2 "Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry,
"to be exalted thus!"
"Worthy the Lamb," our lips reply,
"for he was slain for us!"</p> | <p>3 Jesus is worthy to receive
honor and pow'r divine;
and blessings, more than we can give,
be, Lord, forever thine.</p> <p>4 Let all creation join in one
to bless the sacred name
of God who sits upon the throne,
and to adore the Lamb.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.</p> | <p>2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.</p> |
|--|---|
- 3** Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press.*(rise in body or spirit)***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** Living One,
- C** in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The triune God,

who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.

2 We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

4 Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠

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KOUNTZE STAFF

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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
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org**

May 10 & 11 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 or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it 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 plates 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



Especially on Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for all mothers and those who show a mother's love. May you feel God's blessings on Mother's Day and always for the countless ways you nurture and inspire.

To those for whom today is hard: those who ache over the absence of someone this day; those who have lost a mom, or a child; those with complicated or strained relationships; those who long to be mothers and never had the chance; those grieving, disappointed, ashamed, or otherwise hurting in any way - may our Mothering God bring you comfort and peace this day.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by John & Lynn Schneiderman in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary; in honor of Nurse's Week & Immanuel/ Midland 100th Alumni Anniversary given by Myrna Esluer

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Following the 9 AM Children's Blessing, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All the children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

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

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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

Sunday School children can enjoy the same breakfast that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms.

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.

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.

May 11: Fellowship (Mother's Day)

May 18: Reception of New Members

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 11 Sunday

Easter 4

Mother's Day

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

May 12 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

3:00 PM Executive Committee

5:00 PM KCCOC Board

7:30 PM Youth Committee

May 13 Tuesday

Election Day—Kountze Commons

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Lutheran Women of Omaha

May 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

1:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor

May 15 Thursday

Council Reports Due

Good News Deadline

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

May 16 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

May 17 Saturday

Perez & Manganaro Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

May 18 Sunday

Easter 5

Receive New Members

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

5:00 PM Young Adult Listening

Session (ages 18-35)

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Lutheran Women Omaha (LWO)

Meet at Kountze Memorial

Tuesday, May 13,

12:00 PM

Bring a sack lunch and \$3.00 fee Dessert is provided. Come join us. Reservations are required. Call the church office (402-341-7761) for reservations. The speaker is from Community Alliance. Free will offering TBA.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, May 15

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

Did you know the third Friday in May is National Pizza Party Day? We're getting a head start! Join us on Thursday, May 15 as Jim Smejkal hosts a special Men's Lunch featuring plenty of piping hot pizza and a fun documentary all about—what else?—pizza! Come hungry and ready to learn a few things you never knew you wanted to know about your favorite pie. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 13—we

don't want to run out of slices! Call the church office or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let us know you're coming.

Young Adult Listening Session

Ages 18—35

Sunday May 18

5 PM

Kountze would like to launch a program in the fall of 2025 providing young adults with the spiritual support they need as they enter young adult life. The evening will feature a Southwestern themed meal. We invite you to come share with us what you view as the challenges you are facing as well as how the church can support you spiritually. Please sign up with SignUp Genius using the QR Code/SignUp Genius link below, or sign up at the Welcome Desk.

<https://tinyurl.com/2twpw5up>



Young Adult

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Cantare! Omaha Concert Welcome Summer! Held at Kountze Memorial Sunday, June 1 6:00 PM



Cantare!

Join Cantare!, Omaha's premier Renaissance Vocal Ensemble for their annual spring fundraiser. Cantare! presents a 40-minute concert, followed by a light hearted, delectable hors d'oeuvres & dessert reception & silent auction serenaded by Cantare!. New repertoire of Madrigals, motets, Sea Shanties and more! Proceeds support outreach programs, to bring Renaissance music to area residents in elder care & veterans' communities, and their development program for High School singers. Come for the music, contribute to support enriching the community! Suggested donation \$50 at the door or online.

Youth Summer Kick-Off Event Grade 7 and Up Sunday, June 8 5-8 PM

Link/Courtyard

Come and join us for a time of fellowship & fun to kick-off the summer. We'll have hotdogs & s'mores around the firepit, games, and a chance to hang out and get to know other Kountze Memorial young people. Friends are welcome! Open to youth going into 7th grade and up, including recent high school graduates. You may sign up at the Welcome Desk or by calling or emailing the church office. Contact Pastor Lucy at lucy@klmchurch.org with any questions.

KMLC Camp Week Camp Carol Joy Holling June 15-20



CJH

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. Please call the church office and we'll give you details on how to register so we can pay the registration fee minus the early bird discount. To check on available dates use the QR code or the link below.

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

Summer Service Days 2025/26 7th, 8th & 9th Graders Fridays, June 20 - August 8 (closed on July 4) 8 AM - 4 PM

This summer, students going into grades 7, 8, and 9 are invited to participate in service projects within our church and community. The day will begin between 8 and 9 AM with a light breakfast, lunch will be served, and the day will

end at 4 PM. Projects include making art for the pantry and freshening up the youth room, working in the community garden, reading or playing board games with the elderly, and more. We know families with children this age are often very busy in the summer. Participation is encouraged on whatever days and times fit your schedule. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk or you can call/email the church office to let us know you'll be attending. Contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org with any questions.

Lutheran Collaborative VBS (All free!) Held at Luther Memorial Church 1031 Sunset Trail (61st St. & Western Ave.) July 20-23



VBS

Preschool (potty trained) to Grade 5 5:15 PM: Family Meal 6-8 PM: Programming

This year, we are going on a "Road Trip with God". Our studies will be based off of the Bible verse Joshua 1:9 – "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Join us as we discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Register or volunteer by using the QR code or link below. If you have questions/concerns, please contact Kristin Boe (kristin@kmlchurch.org) or Pastor Becky (402-740-1985 or pastorbecky@lord-of-love.org).

<https://luthermemorial.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. **The current needs this week for the pantry are canned pasta & macaroni & cheese.** You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. You are welcome to volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities.

We are using a new sign up format, so please use the link or QR code to sign up (even if you are a regular volunteer or signed up on the old form) and join our mission.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

Attendance & Giving Thursday, May 1—Wednesday, May 7

Saturday: 34

Sunday: 9:00: 130 **11:00:** 81

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 258

Streaming: 60

Pantry Guests Served: 818 (inc. 340 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 26

Offering:

\$9,918.75 (Regular) \$514.00 (Specials)

\$297.00 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus shepherds us so we can shepherd others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Thursday	Luke 12:22-34	Do not worry
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	God's people are comforted
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. Acts 9:36 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of goodness and mercy, thank you for your shepherding love that leads us to care for one another through Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Shepherding God, we thank you that our cup overflows with your never-failing love that pursues us with goodness, mercy, and this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 23:5-6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Good Shepherd lead you to shepherd others.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If you were a shepherd, what do you think your work would include?
- How is Jesus a shepherd for us and how are we shepherds to one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 9:36-43.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is the Good Shepherd Sunday. The theme for this week's scripture readings is shepherding. In John 10:11 Jesus says, *"I am the good shepherd."* And in John 10:22-30 Jesus speaks of his protection of the sheep in his care. Psalm 23 begins by announcing God as *"my shepherd."* In Acts 9 we see a woman named Tabitha who has cared for other women, specifically widows. These women are moved to tears by the care and service of Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. She shepherded women through her service without the acknowledgment of being an official servant. The story of Peter bringing Tabitha back to life lifts up the role of Tabitha as a servant to others. This is an honor given by a disciple to a woman in a male dominated culture. This act expands the ministry of the church to other leaders. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, it is a reminder of how we all are called to shepherd one another in faith and love.

Discuss: Who can you shepherd in faith and love?

Pray: **Living God, we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and for all those you place in our lives to nurture faith in you and love for all that you have created. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what unexpected act of kindness can you do to surprise someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

As Tabitha shepherded other women long ago, we have women in our lives who have shepherded us. Today is Mother's Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have guided and shepherded us. Write a list of words that describe a woman in your life who has devoted time to showing care for you. Take a moment to sit quietly and be thankful.

Pray: **Lord God, thank you for [name] and for how she has been a gift to my life. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35