

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

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Omaha, NE 68131-3616
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www.kmlchurch.org

September 21, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C Amen.

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stubborn people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost

and have been found.

Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

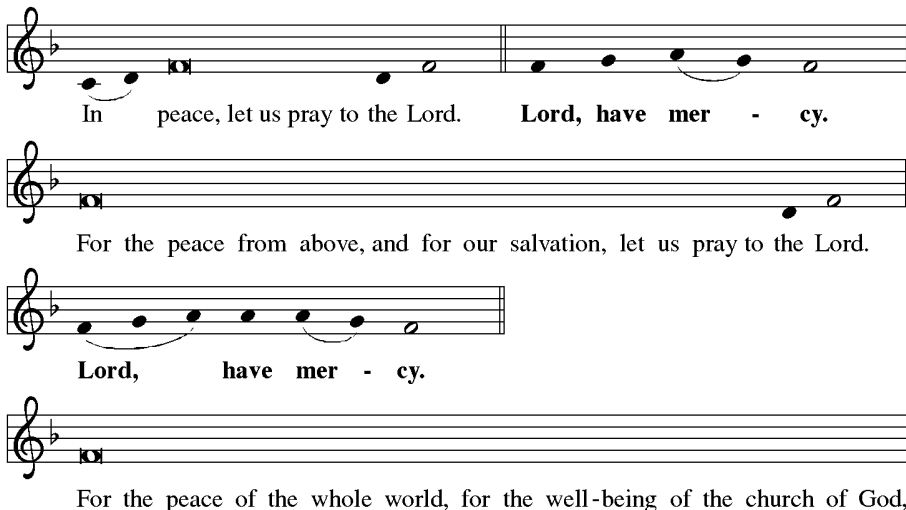
- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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

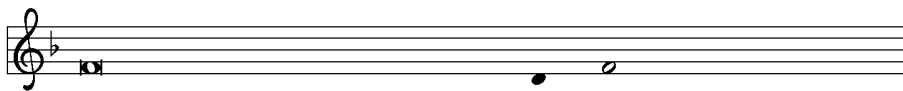


In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

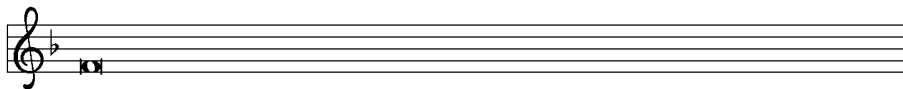
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



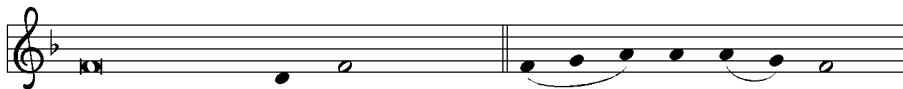
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

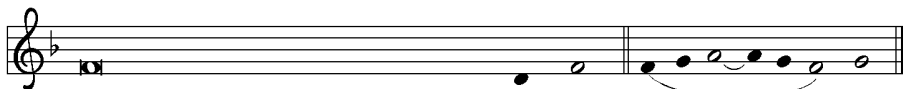


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

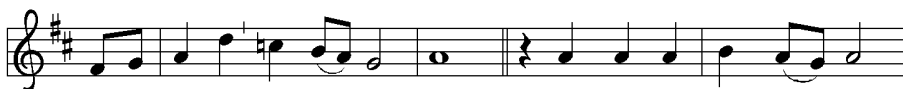


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



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



al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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



al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



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

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** God among us,
- C** we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(*sit*)

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

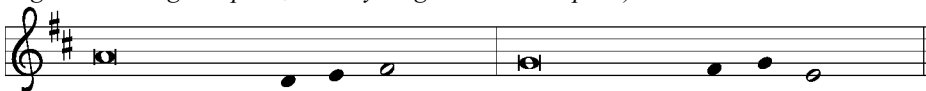
Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

© Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113

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



¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹ of the Lord;
praise the name ¹ of the Lord.

**² Let the name of the | Lord be blessed,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down
let the name of the | Lord be praised.

**⁴ The Lord is high a- | bove all nations;
God's glory a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the | Lord our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,

**⁶ but stoops | to behold
the heavens | and the earth?**

⁷The Lord takes up the weak out [|] of the dust
and lifts up the poor [|] from the ashes,

**⁸enthroning them | with the rulers,
with the rulers | of the people.**

⁹The Lord makes the woman of a ¹childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. ¹Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

🙏 Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 384

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their

own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

 The Gospel of the Lord.

 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children (aged 3 years through 5th 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, in the back of the entrance hall, available to those who prefer to stay with their families. Once the service is over, please place the used activity bags in the baskets provided, so they can be sanitized and replenished for next week.

SERMON


Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)


HYMN OF THE DAY

Cast Out, O Christ


ACS 1016 vs. 1, 2, 5



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☞ Let us confess together the faith of the Church.

☛ **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 of grace,

☛ **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 birth of Ivvie Mae Corona, daughter of Melody Diggins & Tony Corona, granddaughter of Janet Diggins

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Beverly Traub

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Nina Castro, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer, Dale Grundman, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Jane Meyer, Sharon Miley, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Tollefson, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Takao Elliott, fiancé of Dannika Rees; 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

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. 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

Purify My Heart

Words and music by Brian Doerksen
Arr. by Patrick Tierney

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Here Is Bread

ELW 483



- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 Here is bread, | here is wine, | Christ is with us, | he is with us. |
| 2 Here is grace, | here is peace, | Christ is with us, | he is with us. |
| 3 Here we are, | joined in one, | Christ is with us, | he is with us. |



Break the bread,	taste the wine,	Christ is with us	here.
Know his grace,	find his peace,	feast on Je - sus	here.
We'll pro - claim	till he comes	Je - sus cru - ci	- fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



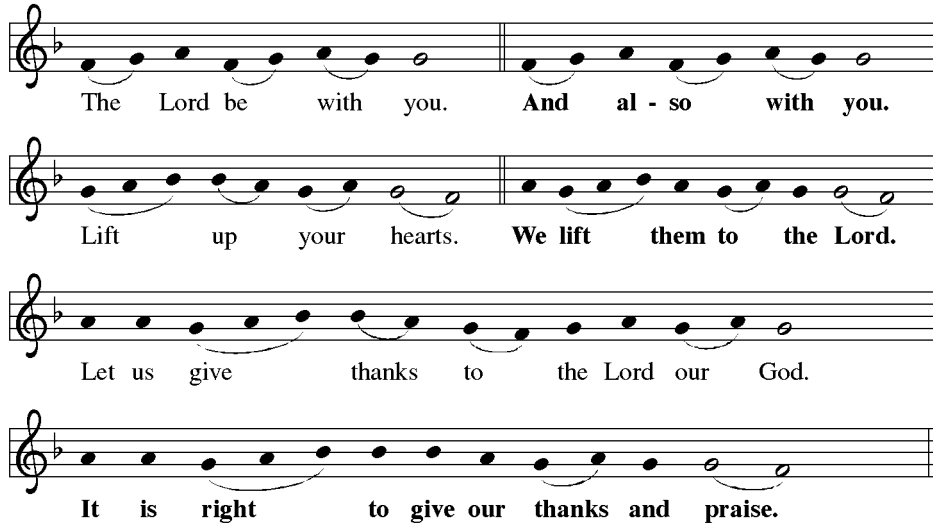
In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text and music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Text and music © 1991 may Way Music, admin. By Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Lord of the harvest,
C we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

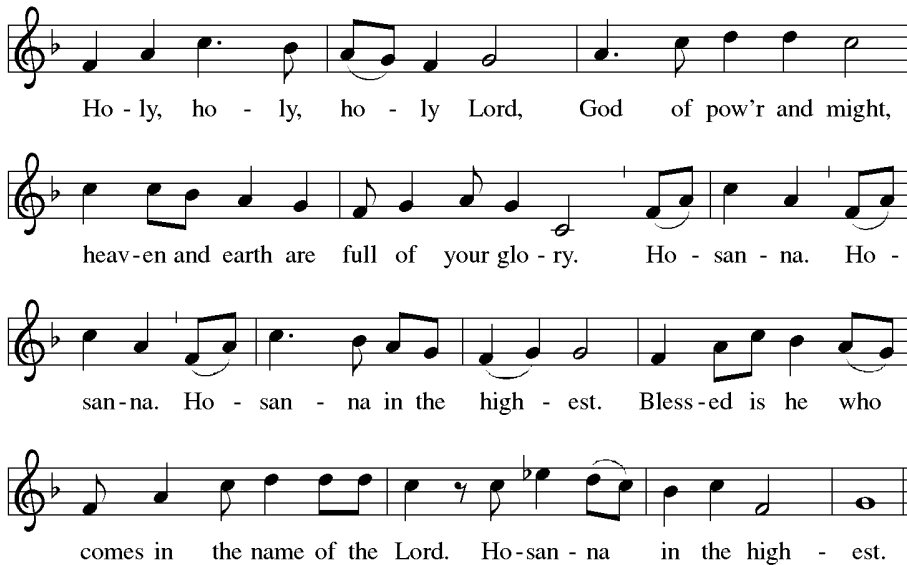
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

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. Ho -
san-na. 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, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise: ...
... with every breath.

C **We praise you, O God.**

P Generations bless your faithfulness: ...
... into the future.

C **We bless you, O God.**

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: ...
... with us now.

C **We thank you, O God.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, ...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us ...

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: ...
... Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

C **Amen.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

C We come to this meal of mercy.

(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. If you cannot or choose not to receive the wine, know that the sacrament and God's promised forgiveness are complete in either element.*

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.

- 3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.
- 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

Refrain

**You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

- 1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain*
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain*

- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain*
- 4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain*
- 5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. *Refrain*

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997
Text © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ O God,

☞ through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

THREE- FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

ELW 539 vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
among us with your grace,
that evil may not harm us
nor we to sin give place.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
among us with your word
and thus now and hereafter
true peace and joy afford.

4 Abide with richest blessings
among us, bounteous Lord;
let us in grace and wisdom
grow daily through your word.

5 Abide, O faithful Savior,
among us with your love;
grant steadfastness and help us
to reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
☑ Thanks be to God.

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

September 20 & 21, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Erica Freeman's birthday given by Vicki & Leigh Freeman; given by Shirley Bonneau

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

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Dave & Pat Studts in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

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.

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11 AM

Free-will Offering

We will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast until September 28, when we will begin serving a full hot breakfast again. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labeledz.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, science, storytelling, cooking, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. 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 the breakfast.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

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

Sept. 21: Help set up for the Congregational Picnic

Sept 28: Getting to Know You

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.

Sept. 21: Help set up for the Congregational Picnic

Sept. 28: Stewardship: Kick Off and "Imagine" Theme Introduction

Everyone is Invited to Our Annual Church Picnic!

This Sunday, September 21

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Get ready for a day of food, fun, and fellowship at our Annual Church Picnic! Mark your calendars now because this is one event you won't want to miss. Join us at the church for a delicious meal (with a vegetarian option, of course) and bring your favorite side dish to share.

The day will be filled with outdoor entertainment for the kids, and we'll wrap up with everyone's favorite—BINGO!

Singing for THEIR Supper

During the month of September, you will find boxes in the Fellowship Hall with the title of a beloved hymn on it. Put your canned tuna, chicken, or ham donations in the box of the song you like the most. At the end of the month, we will see what hymn won and which staff member chose that as their favorite. Let's stock the Pantry with Protein!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

September 21 Sunday

Pentecost 15

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 Lite*

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

11:30 AM Church Picnic

September 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

September 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:30 PM Circle 3

September 24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

September 25 Thursday

9:00 AM Good News Assembly

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

7:00 PM Worship & Music

September 26 Friday

Wedding Rehearsal

5:00 PM Pantry

September 27 Saturday

3:00 PM Amanda Saxen & Andy Sifers

Wedding

5:00 PM Worship

September 28 Sunday

Pentecost 16

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

2:00 PM Mission Field Nebraska

*Full Breakfast will begin on September 28

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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 cereal, crackers and soap. 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 volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.



Pantry

Confirmation Classes Continue

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93rd & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays

6 - 7:15 PM

Handbell Choir

The Kountze bells are looking to start back up again. Our plan is to see how many folks are interested in the group and when would be a good time to rehearse? If you are interested in participating in a bell choir, please talk to Barb Carlsen or call the Kountze office at 402-341-7761. Thank you!

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Help Us Collate the October Good News

Thursday, September 25

9 AM

Come be part of the crew that puts together the Good News! It's a simple way to serve—and a great way to catch up with church friends and enjoy a delicious lunch while you're at it. If you can join us, give the church office a call at 402-341-7761 by Tuesday, September 23. That way we can let you know if anything changes. Thanks for helping us get the Good News out.

Mission Field Nebraska

Sunday, September 28

2 - 4 PM

Glacial Till Cider House

1419 Silver St., Ashland

Sip, support, and celebrate at the Spirit of Ministry Open House at Glacial Till Cider House & Tasting Room. You're invited to an inspiring afternoon in Historic Ashland as we raise awareness and support for the life-changing ministries of Mission Field Nebraska. Your \$20 ticket includes a beverage, hors d'oeuvre, live music, and the opportunity to meet the people behind the mission. Learn more and get your ticket:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/news-events/spirit-of-ministry/>



Mission Field NE

Free Community Health Fair

Monday, September 29

9 AM - Noon

Methodist Community Health Clinic and the Kountze Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry are hosting a free health fair at Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center. Join us at the Health Fair to learn more about skin health, cancer prevention, heart health, signs and symptoms of stroke, and healthy eating. Screenings will be available for skin, blood pressure, blood sugar, lung health, and breast exams. AND... The Omaha Fire Department will be providing safety training and free smoke detectors. Healthy food samples will be provided as well. The Health Fair is open to all! You do not need to be a patient of Methodist Community Health Clinic or a Food Pantry guest to participate. If you have questions, please reach out to Toby Rees at 402-979-1425 or toby@kmlchurch.org.

St. Francis Peacemaker Service

Saturday, October 4

5 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Kountze Memorial and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral collaborate on a Peacemaker Service on the Feast of St. Francis. Join us as we pray for peace in our city, nation, and world. Lutheran Family Services' Chris Tonniges will preach. We will use the Eucharistic Prayer for Peace, written by Br. James Dowd and approved by Episcopal

Bishop J. Scott Barker. The Cathedral and Kountze Choirs will sing together. A cookie reception will follow.

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 4

10 AM—Music & Socializing

10:30 AM—Blessing

St. Cecilia Cathedral

701 N 40th St

Cathedral will host an outdoor celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Bring your pets (dogs on a leash please) to the Cathedral front steps and join in this delightful event for all creatures great and small. Come early and bring your pooch with you to the Pancake Breakfast!

World Day Against the Death Penalty

Eucharist

Friday, October 10

7 - 8 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th Street Omaha

Balancing the Scales invites us to attend World Day Against the Death Penalty Eucharist. World Day Against the Death Penalty is celebrated each year on October 10 to support the call for the end of capital punishment. Episcopal Bishop Barker will preside at the Eucharist and Rev. Stephen Griffith, former executive director of Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and UMC minister, will serve as preacher. Light reception to follow.



We're Looking for a Part-time

Youth Ministry Director

Are you called to inspire the next generation of faith at Kountze Memorial?

Interested? Request a job

description for more information and submit a letter of interest, resume, and three references to the church office. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact the church office.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, Sept. 11—Wednesday, Sept. 17

Saturday: 29

Sunday: 9:00: 144 11:00: 69

Wednesday: 12:15: 7

Total: 249

Streaming: 45

Pantry Guests Served: 870 (inc. 233 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$10,629.56 (Regular)

\$3,715.52 (Specials)

\$895.33 (Debt Reduction)

God cares for the poor and needy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager
Monday	Amos 8:4-7	Judgment on Israel
Tuesday	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Instructions concerning prayer
Wednesday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Thursday	1 Kings 21:1-29	Elijah's judgment of Amos
Friday	1 Samuel 2:1-8	Hannah's prayer
Saturday	Psalms 113	The Lord helps people in need
Sunday	Luke 16:19-31	Poor Lazarus and the rich man



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." **Psalm 113:7-8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and mercy, help us to care for one another, especially the poor and needy, so that your ways may be celebrated on earth through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as you care for the poor and the needy, we thank you for caring for us with this gift of food that we may give you praise through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's justice and mercy bless you.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you felt cheated by paying too much for something?
- God demands justice for the poor. Why is it important to know this?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Amos 8:4-7.

Being religious can sometimes focus on a private relationship with God. Amos certainly didn't feel his relationship with God was something to be kept private. Amos was not part of the prophetic tradition. He was a shepherd and farmer who raised figs. Nonetheless, God called him to be a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. Amos denounced unfair business practices that cheated people out of what was rightfully theirs. Using false weights and measures to charge people too much for what they got was wrong. Amos knew it, and God denounced it. The wealthy controlled the marketplaces and had little regard for God's demand for justice and mercy. The wealthy couldn't wait for religious observances, like not working on the Sabbath, to be over so that more wealth could be taken from the poor. Amos is an example of biblical faith that cares very much for the needy. Our own personal faith in Jesus has a very public consequence for how we treat others with grace, mercy, and justice.

Discuss: When, in response to God's love, have you shown care for those in need?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you for watching over us and for caring for us in every need; help us to be ambassadors of your mercy and grace to others through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who has been taken advantage of?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul encourages us to offer "*supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings*" for all those in positions of authority and leadership (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Think or talk about leaders in the world, the country, and your community you have read or heard about in the news. Write their names on a paper. Read the names aloud and then pray: **Lord God, we thank you for those in leadership positions and ask that you bless them in their work. May they use their positions to care for the poor and show honor to you. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31