

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

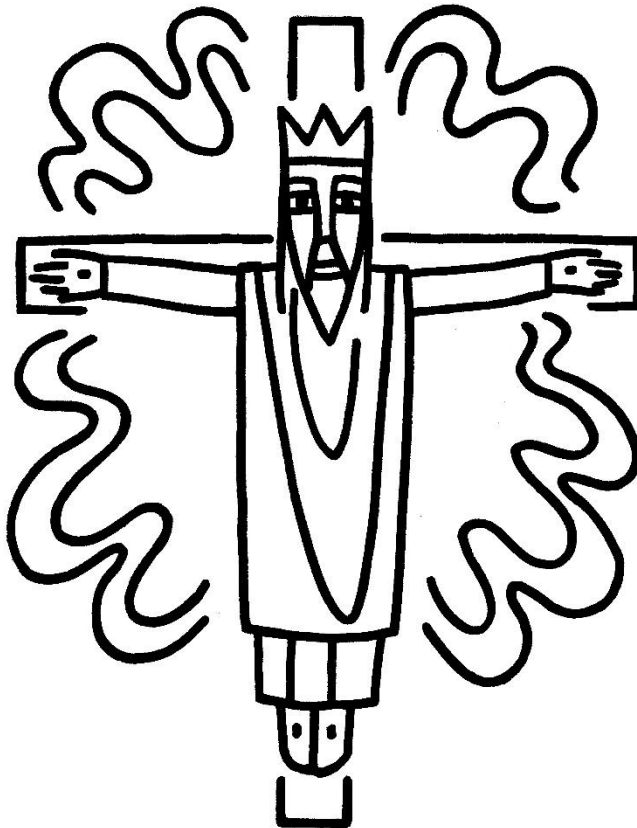
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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www.kmlchurch.org

November 23, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ℒ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

☩ Amen.

- ℒ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- ℒ Faithful God,

☩ **you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.**

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.**

We ignore our neighbors.

We exploit the earth.

**We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**

**Repair our relationships,
restore what we have broken,**

**renew our hearts,
and bring us to new life. Amen.**

- ℒ Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,
† in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

☩ Amen.

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Now redemption, long-expected,
comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
See the day of God appear!

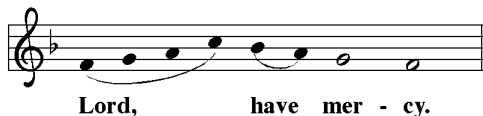
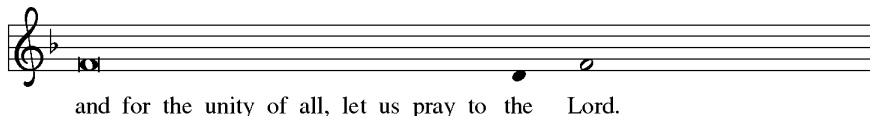
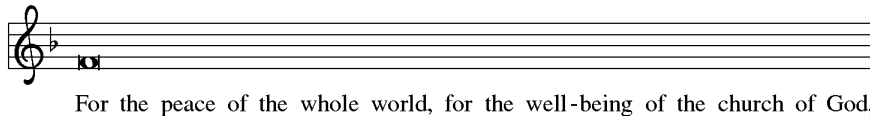
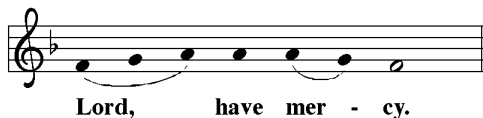
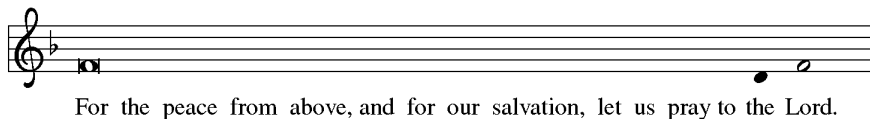
3 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

KYRIE



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

- ☞ O God, our true life,
☞ to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will

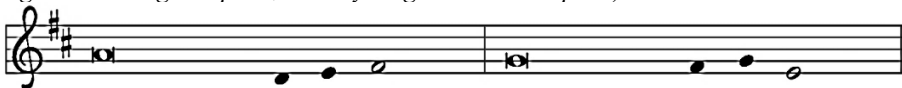
attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

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



¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 476

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

ELW 855 vs. 1, 3, 4

**1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.**

**3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.**

**4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.**

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

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: ℣ Hear us, O God.

☩ **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)

Prayers this week: Larry & Michele Hunzeker

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-Steffen, Dale Grundman, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Sharon Miley, Nita Mueller, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, David Tollefson, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Takao Elliott, husband 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, 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

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

Joyful, Joyful, Sing Praise

words & music by Jay Althouse

(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

- L** God of healing and hope,
- C** you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with your abundance and unite us in the body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. 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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: '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.

The image shows a musical score for the 'Sanctus' part of a Mass. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has four measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has four measures: 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The third staff has four measures: 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The fourth staff has four measures: 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

L Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise: ...
... with every breath.

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

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

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

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

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

L 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.**

L 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

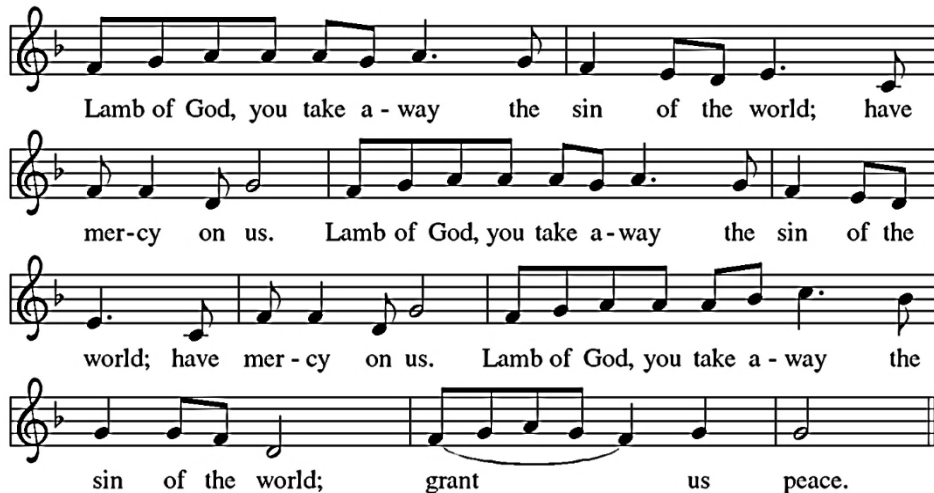
L Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

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

- ☐ Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.
- ☑ **There is a place for us at the table of God.**

(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.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth,
upon a cross they bound you,
and mocked your saving kingship's worth
by thorns with which they crowned you.
And still our wrongs may fashion now
new thorns to pierce that steady brow,
and robe of sorrow round you.</p> | <p>3 New advent of the love of Christ,
will we again refuse you,
till in the night of hate and war
we perish as we lose you?
From ancient doubts our minds release
to seek the kingdom of your peace,
by which alone we choose you.</p> |
| <p>2 O awesome Love, which finds no room
in life where sin denies you,
and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom
the pow'r that crucifies you,
till not a stone is left on stone,
and then the nations' pride, o'erthrown,
will nevermore defy you!</p> | <p>4 O wounded hands of Jesus, build
in us your new creation;
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled;
we wait your revelation.
O Love that triumphs over loss,
we bring our hearts before your cross;
come, finish your salvation.</p> |

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.</p> | <p>3 You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.</p> |
| <p>2 You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.</p> | <p>4 Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.</p> |

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- Ⓐ God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
- Ⓑ **you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The love of God the Most High strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ✝ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal!

ELW 805

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lead on, O King eternal!
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.</p> | <p>2 Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.</p> |
| <p>3 Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!</p> | |

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Share the harvest.
☛ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✝ ✝ ✝

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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz	Deacon
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Toby Rees	Director of Kountze Commons
Sheila Valquier	Youth Director
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 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.

Today at Kountze Memorial

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. 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

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.

Note: No breakfast next Sunday (5th Sunday of the month). We'll have cookies, coffee, and water. For you as you enjoy the Advent Fair. We'll see you again next Sunday for a full breakfast!

Sunday Breakfast – Come Lend a Hand!

Do you enjoy the smell of coffee brewing, lively conversation, and helping people start their Sunday with a good meal? The Kountze Breakfast Committee is looking for a few more helping hands for setup and cleanup on Sunday mornings. We especially need volunteers on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month, and we're also looking for "subs" who can fill in when regular helpers are unavailable. You'll work side by side with experienced volunteers, learn the rhythm of the kitchen, and share in the fun and fellowship that happens behind the scenes. If you'd like to know more or try it out, please contact Sherri Labeledz at 402-578-4331 and learn what it's like to serve in this simple but very meaningful ministry. Thank you for considering being part of the Sunday Breakfast team!

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 Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

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, storytelling, 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.

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:15 AM

Youth Center

Grades 7-12

You are invited to grab breakfast and bring it to the Youth Center each week 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.

Nov 23: Imagine: What's Next?

Nov. 30: Advent Fair

30th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Christian, Jewish, Muslim

Sunday, November 23

6 PM

Hosted at Temple Israel

13111 Sterling Ridge Dr, Omaha

Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude, reflection, and community as congregations from across Omaha's diverse faith traditions come together for our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This year's theme, *Reconciliation Out of Brokenness*, invites us to explore how forgiveness, compassion, and shared learning can heal and renew both hearts and communities. Through prayer, music, and messages from multiple faith leaders, we will celebrate the strength that emerges when we gather across differences in the spirit of hope and thanksgiving. Following the service, all are invited to enjoy a dessert reception, a sweet opportunity to connect and continue the conversation with neighbors old and new. In that same spirit of unity and care, this year's service will also raise funds to support Together, our local Omaha nonprofit working to end hunger and homelessness. Our collective goal is to raise \$5,000 to help fight food insecurity and ensure that every neighbor has access to nourishing meals this season.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 23 Sunday

Christ the King

Advent Alternative Gift Market

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

6:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service—Temple Israel

November 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

10:00 AM Debra Woosley Visitation

11:00 AM Debra Woosley Funeral

November 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

9:00 AM Good News Assembly

November 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

November 27 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving

Meal @ St. Peters

November 28 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

November 29 Saturday

9:30 AM Decorate for Advent

5:00 PM Worship

November 30 Sunday

Advent 1

Advent Alternative Gift Market

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 Advent Fair

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Advent Alternative Gift Market

Sundays, November 23 - December 14

9:30 - 11:30 AM

Saturday December 13 (after the Candlelight Carol Service)

Plan to shop now! Shop next door to the Kountze Café area beginning November 23. Shop ELCA Good Gifts for

different monetary gifts that fight hunger and transform lives. Shop physical handmade gifts from Global Mamas that support women and their families in Ghana. Donate to the Kountze Memorial Healing Gift Free Clinic and/or our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry to help local families in honor of your family and friends.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Decorate for Advent

Saturday, November 29

9:30 AM

You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Advent Fair

Sunday, November 30

10:00 AM - Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all. This year we will be collecting toiletries with an emphasis on 3 in one wash, razors, deodorant, lotion, and toothbrushes/ toothpaste for the Kountze Pantry guests.

Youth Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 7

Grades 7-12

5—8:30 PM

Please join us for our annual Progressive Dinner! Invite friends and plan for an evening of fun as we travel to host homes for our meal, and return to Kountze for dessert. We will depart from the church at 5 PM and plan to return by 8:30 PM. Please RSVP to Sheila Valquier at sheila@kmlchurch.org

Candlelight Carol Service

Saturday, December 13

Prelude 4:30 PM

Service 5:00 PM

The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church! We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of Sacred Scripture and Poetry, Congregational Carols, Communion, and Choral, Handbell and Instrumental Music. Please join us for this special evening as we journey through Advent and celebrate the Birth of Our Savior! Nursery care will be provided. Cheese and Dessert Reception Following the Service.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14

9 AM

The kids are working hard to learn some of your favorite Christmas hymns. Come learn about the story of Christmas as told by our students!

"Noisy Offering"

Sunday, December 14

We will have a "Noisy Offering" competition between the elementary students, youth groups kids, and the adults.

Save up your change and we will have containers to pour your coins into the appropriate space. All the proceeds will go towards the ELCA Good Gifts program.

Summer Youth Mission Trip

Dates: July 6–12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Early Bird Registration: \$750 until December 31, 2025

Regular Registration: \$800 January 1–April 1, 2026

\$50 Deposit required for registration

Cost includes transportation, meals, and lodging.

Register by April 1, 2026

The Nebraska Synod Journey is a week-long experience for youth in grades 8 through 12 and their adult leaders. In 2026, we will gather in Pittsburgh for service, learning, worship, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith while learning from our neighbors in Pennsylvania. We will work as a team to raise funds to offset the cost. Presence and participation at fundraising events required.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. 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/uausdddp>

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

Pantry Dinner in a Bag: Check out the insert in your bulletin and prepare a bag/bags for our Pantry. These kits are designed to be budget-friendly and easy to prepare, containing shelf-stable ingredients and a recipe card. A different recipe card will be in your bulletin now through Advent, and you can find more recipes online if you would like to pack a bag or two or six for our Pantry guests.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, Nov. 13—Wednesday, Nov. 19

Saturday: 22

Sunday: 9:00: 165 11:00: 72

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 269

Streaming: 53

Pantry Guests Served: 756 (inc. 239 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 9

Offering:

\$19,130.18 (Regular) \$5,841.74 (Specials)

\$462.00 (Debt Reduction)

Give thanks for the reign of Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	A message of hope
Tuesday	Colossians 1:11-20	The supremacy of Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 22:1-17	A call to repent
Thursday	Philippians 4:4-9	Pray with thanksgiving
Friday	Revelation 21:1-8	The new heaven and new earth
Saturday	Psalm 46	God is our mighty fortress
Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **Jeremiah 23:5 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, help us to give thanks for your reign and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of lords, and King of kings, with a voice of thanks we gladly sing. Give us now our daily bread, gratefully received in heart and head. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with compassion.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Would you rather be a shepherd or a king? Explain.
- How would you describe the reign of Christ the King?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jeremiah 22:3-17 and 23:1-6.

In the Old Testament, kings were referred to as shepherds because of their task to care for the sheep, the people. To understand how the kings (the shepherds) had failed God's task for them, it is helpful to read Jeremiah 22:3-17. The kings had not protected those most prone to abuse in society, that is, foreigners, widows, and orphans. The kings had gained extreme wealth by underpaying the poor and they had blood on their hands for not showing compassion for the needy and the poor. The reading from Jeremiah 23:1-6 announces God's rule on earth. On Christ the King Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus is the "righteous Branch" raised up by God to rule all the earth wisely and to "execute justice and righteousness in the land" (23:5). Jesus' reign is seen from the cross where injustice, pain, and death are overcome by God's eternal reign of justice, mercy, and life forevermore.

Discuss: What is the difference between an earthly king and Christ the King?

Pray: **Almighty God, you who expect care for widows and orphans, give us courage and faith to trust in your heavenly powers and serve others through Christ, our Lord and King. 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 someone who is struggling?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday in the church year. Advent, the next Sunday, is the beginning of the new church year. Think about or make a list of how you were involved in the congregation's ministries in the last year. What were some highlights? How did you grow in your faith? Who did you get to know better? Think or talk about how you might be involved in the coming church year. *Pray:* **Dear God, we ask that you work in and through our faith community as together we continue to grow in our faith. Through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44