

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

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

February 15, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD



Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ℒ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

☩ **Amen.**

ℒ Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

ℒ Mighty God, lover of justice,

☩ **you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.**

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

**We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.**

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

ℒ The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

☩ **Amen.**

- 1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.
- 2 Alleluia you are sounding,
true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother,
bring us to your jubilee;
here by Babylon's sad waters
mourning exiles still are we.
- 3 Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for a while forgo;
for the solemn time is coming
when our tears for sin shall flow.
- 4 In our hymns we pray with longing:
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter
with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing
alleluia joyfully.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, 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

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ O God,

☑ in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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

Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.”¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God.¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.¹⁶ The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites.¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2 (read responsively)

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against the Lord’s anointed?**

³ “Let us break their yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

⁴ **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the Lord holds them in derision.**

⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶ **“As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the Lord, who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

¹⁰ **And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹ Submit to the Lord with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

¹² **lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*



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

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 358

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

☐ 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

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838 vs. 1 & 4

**1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

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: **L** Merciful God,
 G receive our prayer.

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

Prayers this week: Myrna Carter, Trish Daffer

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Nina Castro, Irving Collett, Mike Cswercko, Marilyn Dichsen, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Dale Grundman, Larry & Michele Hunzeker, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack & Marie Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Sharon Miley, Ralph Morse, Walter Nash, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White, Grant Williams

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 & Takao Elliott, daughter & son-in-law of Eric & 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

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
G 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

Shine Like the Sun

Kai Johnson, violin
text John Ylvisaker, arr. by Karen E. Black

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679 vs. 1 & 3

1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

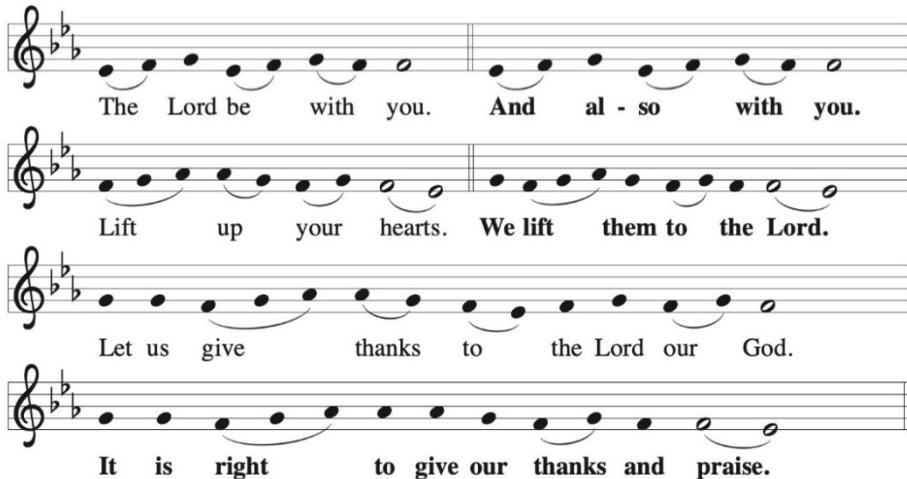
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

L God of majesty,

C no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

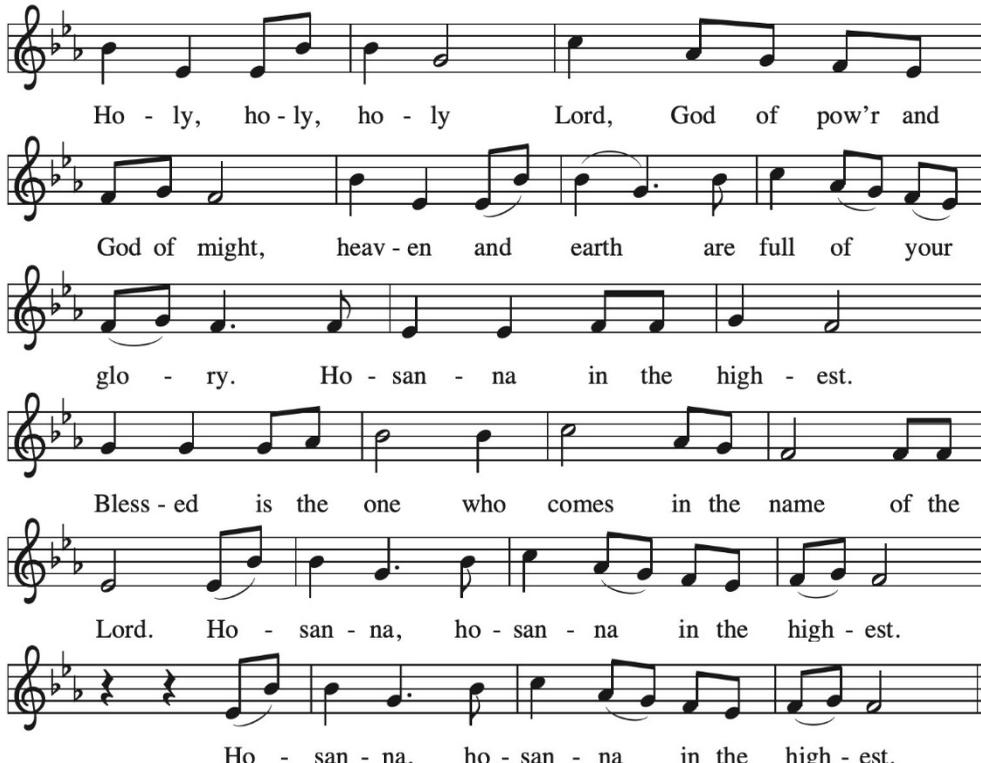


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

- ℣ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



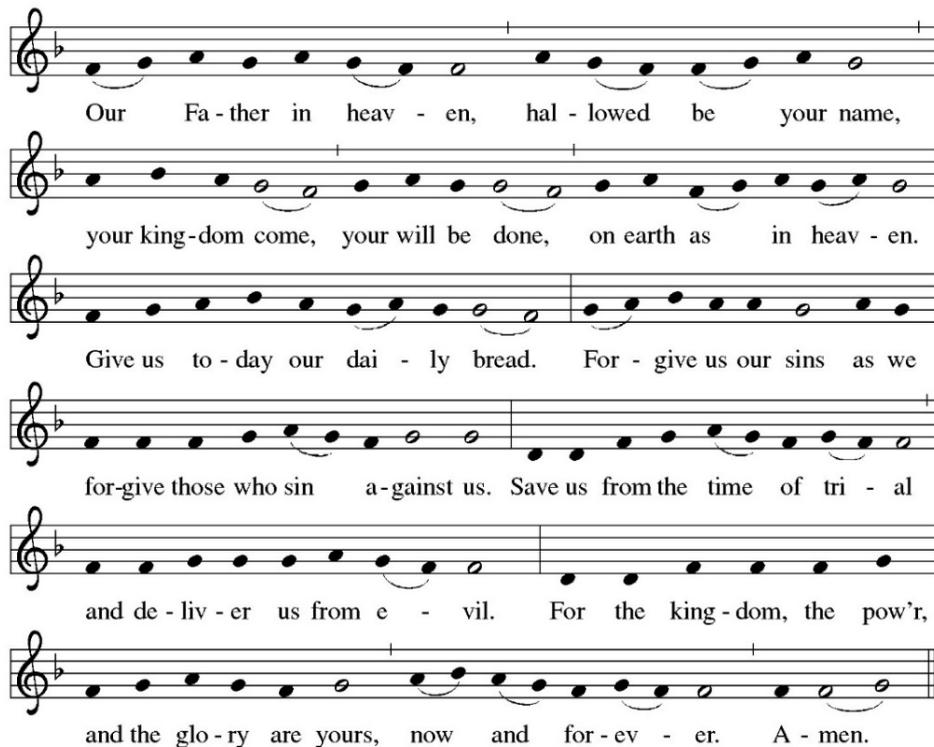
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ℣ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. ...
... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- ☩ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- ℣ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, ...
... To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
- ☩ **Amen.**

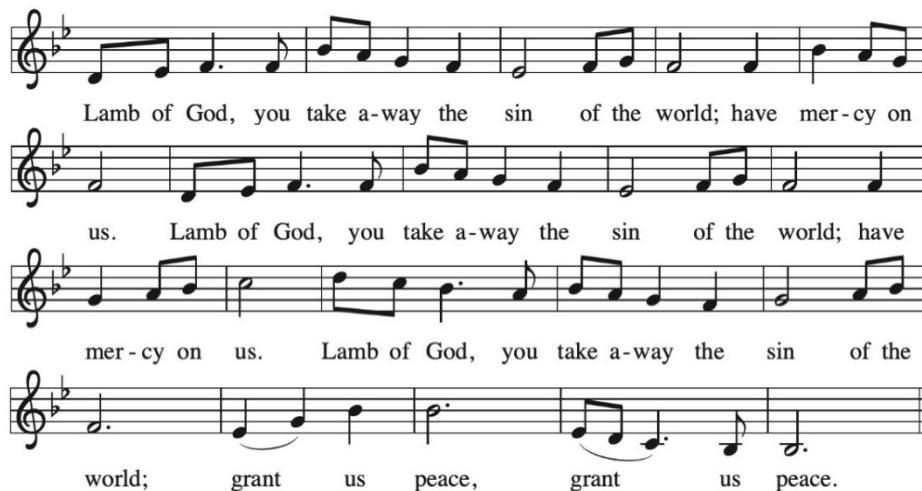
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



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

AGNUS DEI



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L Come to the table; taste and see.

C Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

(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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

I Need Thee Every Hour

Kai Johnson, violin, Mark Jones, piano
arr. by Ruth Coleman, tune by Robert Lowry

HYMN

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.

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☪ Radiant God,

☪ **we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.</p> <p>2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.</p> | <p>3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.</p> <p>4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
☛ 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	Facility & Events Director
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
Dan Collett	Facility Assistant
Louis Flake	Night Manager
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

February 14 & 15, 2026

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

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>



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Julie Haug given by her family.

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Marvin Andersen given by his family.

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, fellowship, and conversation. All are welcome—bring your appetite! 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 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 join us each week in the Youth Center during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

February 15: Annual Meeting

February 22: What is the Liturgy?

Youth Mission Trip Art Show Results

Thank you to everyone who donated items and to those of you who purchased items at our first Art Show. It was a great success

and we're already looking forward to next year! So far we have raised \$2,964 and still have a few remaining items have since received bids on them, so we're not done yet. This is also the last week for the Valentine Mission Trip Donation Tree. It will come down after church on Sunday. If you'd like to participate, please grab a valentine—along with your check -- and place it in the box on the Welcome Desk. Thank you again for your generous support. It means so much to the youth of Kountze Memorial.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

February 15 Sunday

Good News Deadline
Transfiguration of Our Lord
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 Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
10:10 AM Congregational Meeting



February 16 Monday

President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM Pantry Open

February 17 Tuesday

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

February 18 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday
11:00 AM Lenten Meal
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship

February 19 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5

February 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

February 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

February 22 Sunday

Lent 1
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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Together in Mission (TIM)

Adult Faith Formation Event

Saturday, February 21, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

510 N 93rd St

Hosted by St. Timothy's Lutheran Church for the Metropolitan + Lutheran Community and co-sponsored by **Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church**, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Saint Michael Lutheran Church. Join siblings in Christ across Omaha as we grow in understanding, accompaniment, and shared mission under the ELCA umbrella.

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Winston D. Persaud

Professor of Systematic Theology
Wartburg Theological Seminary

Dr. May Burt Persaud

Instructor in Biblical Languages
Wartburg Theological Seminary

Schedule Highlights

8:30 AM – Coffee & Gathering

9:30 AM – Keynote Address

11:00 AM – Cultural & Mission Workshops

Noon – Lunch

12:45 PM – Bible Study

1:30 PM – Closing Worship

More information can be found by using the QR Code or the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2rd6etkv>

Scholarships

Deadline to Apply: March 1

The KMLC Scholarship Program makes scholarship funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up in the Youth Center, Church Office, or downloaded from the church website at

www.kmlchurch.org and go to Grow

> Youth Ministries > Scholarships.

Applications are due on March 1, 2026. Applications

received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable and recipients must re-apply each year. Funds are sent directly to respective institutions. Submit your applications, along with supporting documentation, by mail to KMLC, Attn Scholarship Committee, 2650 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68131; in person to the church office; or by e-mail to info@kmlchurch.org



For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Order of Saint John Annual Training

Sunday, March 1, Noon to 1:30 PM

Saturday, March 7, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

On Sunday a light lunch will be offered for all Worship Assistants, and the OSJ Sponsors will provide a dessert, so we need to know how many are attending. This year, the *Order of Saint John Annual Training* will take place in conjunction with the upcoming *Worship Workshops for Worship Assistants*. Two dates are available, so you can choose which one works best in your schedule. Please select a date and let the OSJ Sponsors know by Sunday, February 22. **On behalf of the Order of Saint John**, we would like to recognize John Groenjes for his dedication and faithful service as an Acolyte and Crucifer over many years. John is retiring at the end of February as an active member of the OSJ. When you see John, please thank him for his leadership and dedication to the Order of Saint John.

Worship Workshops

Sunday, March 1

Noon-1:30 PM (light lunch served)

Saturday, March 7

3:00-4:30 PM

Please RSVP to the church office

If you are a member of one of our weekend worship assisting teams - Ushers, Altar Guild, Lectors, Communion Servers, Media & TV, etc. - OR if you are interested in learning more about volunteering in worship, come to our Worship Workshop. We will spend time in these individual teams reviewing the very practical how-to's and updating you on any new/revised practices. Note: two time slots are offered - the same workshop will be offered at each, but you are welcome to come to both and go to different break-out groups.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are soap, sugar, and cereal. 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. We are always in need of gently used egg cartons and grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

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

Summer Youth Mission Trip

Dates: July 6-12, 2026

Grades 8-12

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

\$50 Deposit required for registration

Cost includes transportation, meals, and lodging.

Register ASAP by contacting Sheila Valquier

There is a Valentine Tree at the top of the ramp to the Youth Room where you can take a valentine and return it to the church office with your donation inside. Any donation is welcome and appreciated. Thank you for your support!

KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling

June 7- 12/week 2

Kountze Memorial will cover the cost for any Kountze Memorial

child/youth if you didn't register by the January 31 Early Bird Registration date you will need to pay the additional cost. Call/email the church on instructions so we can pay the early bird cost. Instructions are also in the weekly e-news.

Table Grace Café Gala

Friday, March 6

6 - 9 PM

Livestock Exchange Ballroom

4920 S 30th St

We are personally invited to attend the Table Grace Café Gala. You won't want to miss this event - there will be amazing food, great auction items to help raise money for those who need a hand up, and entertainment. For more information, to purchase tickets, sponsorship packages, or to RSVP, use the QR Code or email cindy@tablegracecafe.org.



Table Grace Gala

Camp Carol Joy Holling Heart of Camp Gala

Saturday, April 11

A View West Shores

110 S. 243rd Street, Waterloo, NE

5:30 - 10 PM

Save the date for Camp Carol Joy Hollings gala. The night promises fun, auction bidding wars (both live & silent), fellowship with friends, and great food. Bring a friend or two or a table's worth. The more the merrier. This year the gala features a fun theme & new ticket option. Do you have items to donate for the auction? You can fill out the Auction Donation Form by using the QR Code below or email Allison at Ablatchford@NLom.org. More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to <https://www.nlom.org/gala/>



CJH Gala

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

DUST TO DAWN:

A LENTEN JOURNEY TO THE EASTER VIGIL



- **Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM**
(6:30 PM is livestreamed)
- **Lunch: 11:00 AM - Noon**
(free-will offering)
- **Supper: 5:00 - 6:30 PM**
(free-will offering)

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, February 5—Wednesday, February 11

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 154 11:00: 78

Wednesday: 12:15: 12

Total: 275

Streaming: 59

Pantry Guests Served: 485 (inc. 144 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$20403.97 (Regular) \$2846.1 (Specials)

\$257 (Debt Reduction)

Disciples have a mountaintop experience.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	Exodus 24:12-18	Moses goes up to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	2 Peter 1:16-21	Eyewitnesses of Christ's glory
Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Giving, praying, and fasting
Thursday	Genesis 8:1-22	The Lord's promise for the earth
Friday	Genesis 22:1-19	The Lord will provide
Saturday	Psalms 2	The Lord's chosen king
Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus



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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. **Matthew 17:7-8 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and eternal God, help us to be aware of your saving presence in our lives and in our world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share, on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you comfort and strength.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you felt God's presence in your life?
- When Jesus was transfigured, a voice from heaven said, "Listen to him." How do you hear and listen to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 17:1-9.

In the midst of the challenges and hurts of everyday life, it can be a gift and a source of comfort and strength to have a "God moment" experience. It happened to Peter, James, and John. It also happens to us, that sense that God is near and all is well. Our comfort is not just in any god or spiritual experience, but one that links us to Jesus, the Son of God. He is the one who came to die on another mountain, Golgotha. However, this mountain experience brings together Jesus, Moses, Elijah, and unprepared disciples. What makes this moment a valued "God moment" is that the disciples are comforted by the words, "do not be afraid" (v.7) and their focus becomes exclusively on Jesus alone. What a moment and a gift it is to see Jesus before us and at peace with no need to be afraid.

Discuss: When have you had a special moment that gave you a comforting sense that Jesus was with you?

Pray: **Dear God, help us to see Jesus in our mountaintop highs and in our valley lows, and may that vision give us courage, comfort, and strength to be your faithful followers. 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 be a good listener to someone who is in need of a listening ear?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Exodus 24, Moses went up on a cloud-covered mountain for forty days and forty nights. We are about to enter another 40-day period of prayer and fasting as we prepare for Ash Wednesday this week. The day before is called Shrove Tuesday and is recognized around the world as a day to eat fattening foods, especially pancakes. Prepare a pancake feast on Tuesday this week to enjoy with friends and family. After feasting, say this blessing: **May God bless you through your journey this Lent.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11