

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 22, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY in LENT



*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

# 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.

**C** Amen.

**L** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**L** Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**L** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**L** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**L** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**L** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**L** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**L** God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING OF PROCESSIONAL CROSS

*This weekend we dedicate, with gratitude, our new Processional Cross, written by Jane Tan Creti.*

☒ Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe,  
for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift;  
you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children;  
and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.  
Send your blessing on this processional cross, which we set apart today;  
may this sign of your Son's triumph draw us to him  
who leads us with this banner of salvation.

We praise you for the skill of artists, whose creativity draws us to  
wonder and worship for the beauty of the earth you have made.

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

ELW 321

- 1 **Eternal Lord of love, behold your church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.**
- 2 **So daily dying to the way of self,  
so daily living to your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.**
- 3 **If dead in you, so in you we arise,  
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,  
so into life and glory shall we wake.**

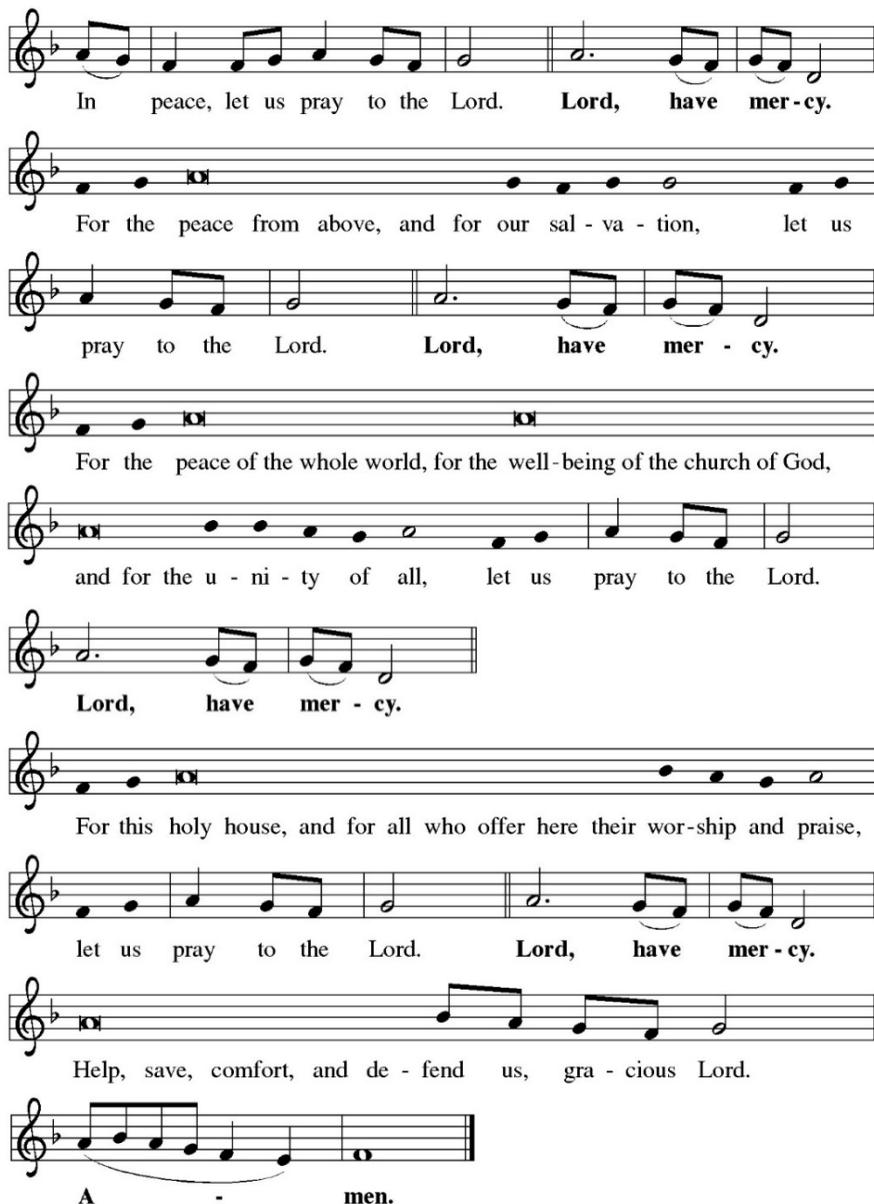
Text: Thomas H. Cain, b. 1931-2003  
Text © Thomas H. Cain.

## 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



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

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us  
pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.  
**A - men.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☪ Lord God,

☪ **our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 8*

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

**T**he Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 32** (*cantor/choir will sing the verses, congregation will sing the refrain*)



Mer-cy em - brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!

<sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. *Refrain*

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye. *Refrain*

- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”
- <sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. *Refrain*

## SECOND READING

**Romans 5:12-19**

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned<sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.<sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.<sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.<sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.<sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 4:1-11**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING 9:00 AM

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Wynard*

(rise in body or spirit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## When We Are Tested

ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. 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:  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:** 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:** *Seminarists* – 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**     *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*     setting by Carl F Schalk

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**     *We Place upon Your Table, Lord*     **ELW 467**

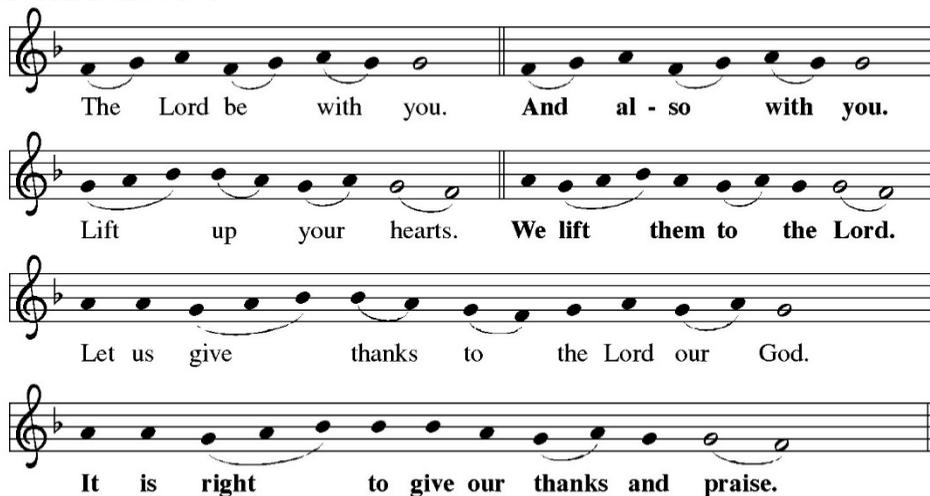
- 1 We place upon your table, Lord,  
where you by grace have bid us dine,  
these tokens of our daily work,  
the food of life, the bread and wine.
- 2 Within these simple things there lie  
the height and depth of human life:  
our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils,  
our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
- 3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you;  
we take them humbly from your hand;  
put these your gifts to higher use:  
the holy meal that you command.

Text: M. F. C. Willson, 1884-1944, alt.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ O God, maker of heaven and earth,
- ☑ your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

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

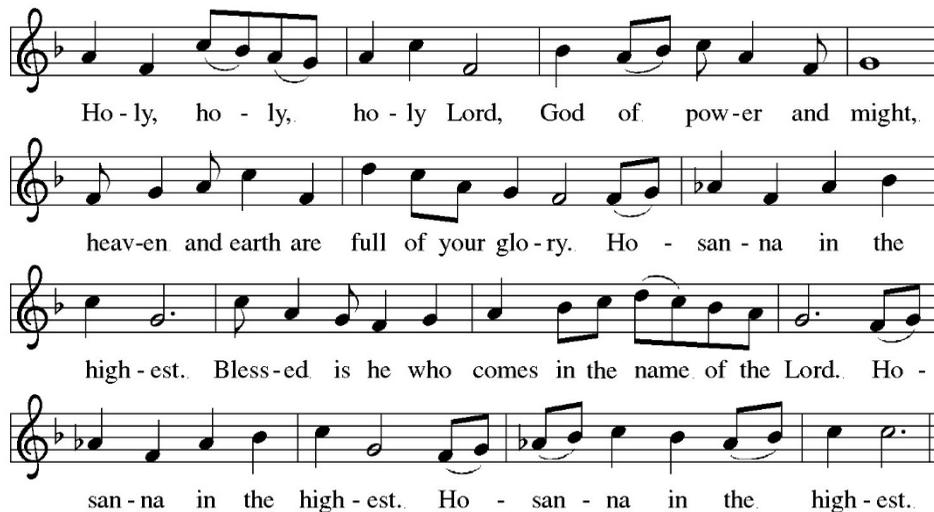
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

- ℒ 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 - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ℒ Blessed are you, O God of the universe. ...  
... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
- ☛ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- ℒ O God of resurrection and new life ...  
... Grace our table with your presence.
- ☛ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ℒ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. ...  
... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace and love.
- ☛ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ℒ With your holy ones of all times and places, ...  
... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- ☛ **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

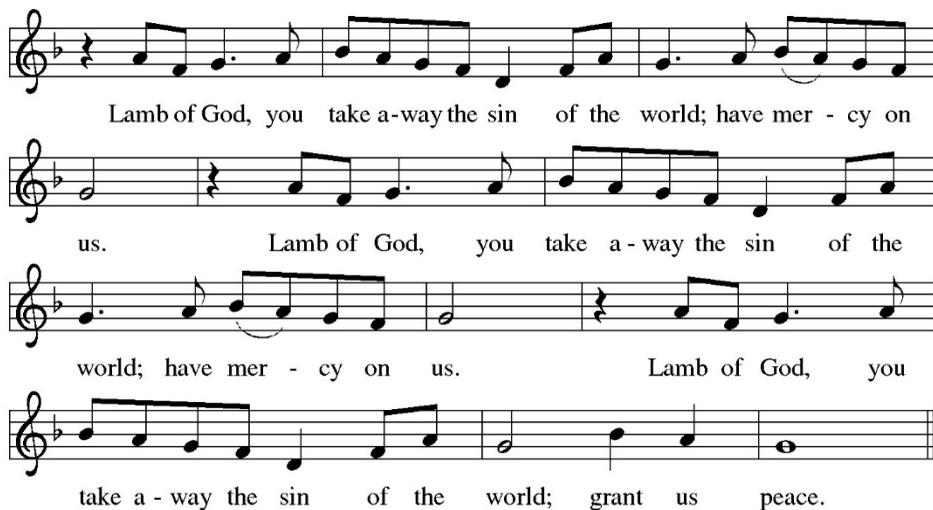
☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray

☑ **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 to the table.

☑ **We feast on God's goodness and 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** Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

**2** Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

**3** Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

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

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW 325

**1** I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**2** In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**3** When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

*(rise in body or spirit)*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**L** God of our salvation,

**C** we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Cast Out, O Christ*

ACS 1016 vs. 1, 2, 4, 5



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the  
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are  
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that  
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 -  
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,  
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.  
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.  
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.

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
☑ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠



From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible, ©2021, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. All Creations Sings ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, an imprint of 1517 Media. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828.

## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

February 21 & 22, 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>



**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Martens given by Mark and Stephanie Martens

### 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-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22: What is the Liturgy?

March 1: Early Christian Worship

### We Need Sunday School Teachers!

Please use the link below or the QR Code to sign up to help lead the youngest members for Kountze in their Faith Formation. All the lessons are provided beforehand, scripted, and materials provided. Contact Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org) for any questions you may have.

<https://tinyurl.com/8s4k6ax4>



SS Teachers

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### February 23 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### February 24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM KCCOC Board Meeting  
12:30 PM Circle 3

### February 25 Wednesday

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

### February 26 Thursday

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

### February 27 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### February 28 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### March 1 Sunday

Lent 2  
Homebound Communion  
Scholarship Application Deadline  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour  
12:00 PM OSJ Training & Worship Workshops

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### 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](http://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](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org)

### 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.

### Sweat Pants Sunday

#### Kountze Young Adults (18—30's)

#### Sunday, March 8

**12:15 PM**

1 Samuel 16:7b *"For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."* Young Adults (18-30s) are invited to come as you are, messy hair, don't care, sweatpants are a must! We'll be playing

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

board games, card games, pool, air hockey, in our comfiest attire on Sunday, March 8, following the 11:00 AM worship service. We'll meet at 12:15 PM for pizza, conversation, and connection. Whether you're new or have joined us before, you're welcome to bring a friend and come as you are! All are welcome. Seriously, all.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cindy@tablegracecafe.org).



Table Grace Gala

### **First Communion Class** **Sunday, March 15** **11:00 AM**

A light lunch will be served for participants and their families. The student's First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students in the second grade, or those showing a curiosity about Communion, are encouraged to attend. Please register with Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org).

### **Camp Carol Joy Holling Heart of Camp Gala** **Saturday, April 11** **A View West Shores** **110 S. 243<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:Ablatchford@NLOM.org). More information on the night and to buy tickets, go to

<https://www.nlom.org/gala/>

### **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**  
Any donation is welcome and appreciated. Thank you for your support!

### **Kountze Food Pantry**

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are soup, gloves, & deodorant. 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.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp>

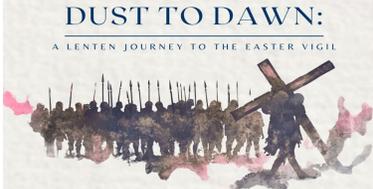
If you have questions about the Pantry, you can call Toby Rees at 402-979-1425.



Pantry

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

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



- **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)

## LENTEN MEAL

### Menu for February 25

- Chicken Tortilla Soup
- Tomato Basil Soup
- Assorted Wraps
- Vegetarian Option Available
- Triple Berry Cobbler

Everyone is welcome.  
Come hungry and join us!

Worship: 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM  
Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Dinner: 5:00 - 6:30 PM  
Cost: Free-will Offering



### Attendance & Giving

Thursday, February 12—Wednesday, February 18

**Saturday: 25**  
**Sunday: 9:00: 162 11:00: 76**  
**Wednesday: 12:15: 79**  
**Total: 484**  
**Streaming: 79**  
**Pantry Guests Served: 392 (inc. 113 children)**  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:**  
**Offering:**  
\$15,587.49 (Regular) \$3,451.33 (Specials)  
\$252.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Jesus faces temptation and conquers evil.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	First sin and its punishment
Tuesday	Romans 5:12-19	Adam and Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ was raised to life
Thursday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Love wipes away many sins
Friday	Galatians 6:1-10	Bear one another's burdens
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.  
In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. **Matthew 4:10-11 (NRSV)***

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, it is difficult to face the evil within and around us. Thank you for facing and conquering the power of sin through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

God of steadfast love and mercy, we thank you for this meal and all that you do to care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May God keep you safe from evil.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Why is it sometimes difficult to talk about evil and sin?
- Do you believe that God is always there for you in good times and bad times? Explain.

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 4:1-11.

After his baptism, Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness, a place that tests one's true character. He is tested as he faces Satan and the basic temptations of comfort, worshiping false gods, and the misuse of power. Jesus does not give in to these temptations. As the Son of God, he is without compromise. We, on the other hand, can find it easy to compromise goodness in the presence of evil by tolerating comfort over justice, worship of false gods, and powers that hurt others without grieving us. In a world where little compromises can lead to major wrongs and injury to others, it is good to know that our Savior faced down evil and won. Evil is real and does real damage to God's creation, including human beings and their relationships. The good news is that as fallible and susceptible as we are to evil, in the end, it does not and cannot win. God in Christ has conquered every evil power.

*Discuss:* What can we learn from Jesus' response to temptation?

*Pray:* **Eternal God, you who never give up on us and oppose every evil, we thank you for your steadfast love and mercy through Christ Jesus. 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 is afraid to try something for fear of making a mistake?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

To establish a ritual during Lent, make a Lenten Candle Cross. Place six purple tea-light or votive candles in the shape of a cross, using a white seventh candle for the center. Each week, a candle will be lit during prayer time in your home. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) will be introduced as a way to pray. This first week in Lent represents "A" for Adoration, meaning love, respect, and worship. [Light one purple candle]

*Pray:* **Dear God, we praise your name and worship you. I praise you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17