

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

March 1, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY in LENT

A GUIDED LITURGY



Today's service is an opportunity to learn more about the what and why of our weekly worship event. Verbal explanations will be offered throughout the service and in written explanations in the margins of this bulletin. The structure of our worship service is divided into 4 parts:

GATHERING, WORD, MEAL, AND SENDING.

You can learn more about these parts of worship and what may happen during each of them on pgs. 92-93 of the red book in the pews called the ELW, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

You may want to keep the ELW close at hand as we go through today's service, and a pen to make some notes for yourself. You are encouraged to take this bulletin home for further reading and reflection.

Throughout our service you may see notes in the bulletin, be prompted from the front, or see the worship leaders or others using particular postures or gestures, such as standing, bowing, genuflecting, or making the sign of the cross. Please note there is considerable variation not only within Christian ecumenical practice, but also within ELCA congregations and among worshippers are Kountze Memorial. Remember that you are welcome to use those gestures that aid your worship, and free to omit those that do not.

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

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 before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

ℒ Gracious God,

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

ℒ For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

☞ **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,

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

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

☞ **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,

☞ **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,

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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

The **PRELUDE** allows time to prepare our hearts, bodies and minds for worship.

A worship leader – usually the **PRESIDER**, the ordained minister who will lead the Meal portion of the service – welcomes all and makes announcements for the good of all.

We begin by blessing the Triune God. † indicates you make the **SIGN OF THE CROSS** – tracing a cross on the forehead or across the upper body. This is the sign marked on us in baptism.

We confess our sin and hear God's word of forgiveness. The roots of this practice is a prayer that was said by the clergy before entering the sanctuary (the area around the altar). Luther's innovation was to have this prayer said by the congregation as well. By pronouncing God's general absolution for sin, Luther hoped to also encourage people to come to Holy Communion. During some seasons **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** may be omitted or replaced by a **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**. Both rites center God's mercy and remind us of our identity as God's children.

☐ 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.

☐ Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church ELW 321

Singing during the Gathering plays an important role in creating our common identity. These songs welcome us to the mercy of the Triune God and move us from our individual experiences into the communal purpose of worship.

The procession of worship leaders is merely a function of getting people from one place to another. As in life, we follow the Cross of Christ and the light of Christ in our midst. We turn to face the cross and follow its path to the altar. As the Cross passes participants in the pews, they may bow slightly in reverence for who it represents. In more formal/festival services, incense can be used in the Procession to represent the prayer of the assembled Church (Revelation 5:8).

- 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.**

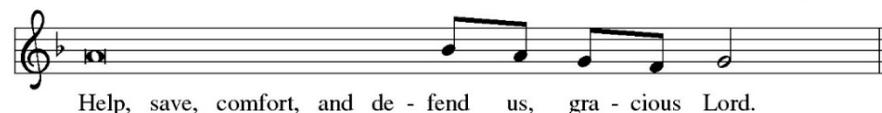
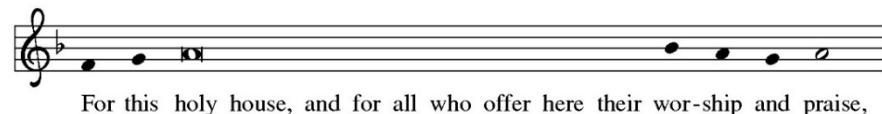
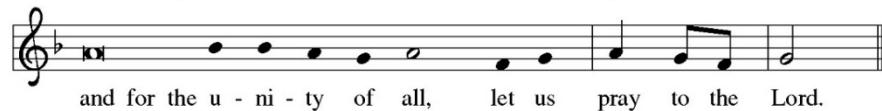
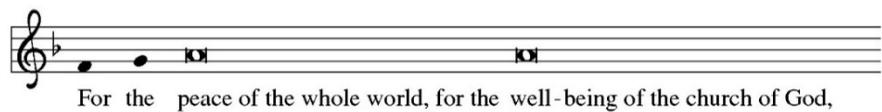
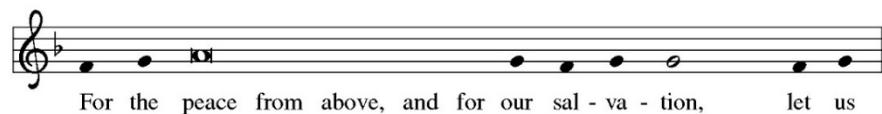
Text: Thomas H. Cain, b. 1931-2003
Text © Thomas H. Cain.

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



A worship leader, usually an ordained minister, and the assembly greet one another in the name of the Triune God.

The **KYRIE** is a sung prayer. “*Kyrie*” is a shortened form of “*Kyrie eleison*” (KIH-ree-ay eh-LEH-ee-zon), Greek for “Lord, have mercy.” The *Kyrie* and the *Gloria* are two of the oldest parts of the service (see Psalm 51, Matthew 15:22; Luke 18:38; Luke 2:15, respectively). The *Gloria* maybe omitted during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

In the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978), Lutherans added an alternative to the *Gloria*, “**This is the Feast**” for use in festive liturgies, (see Revelation 5:12-13 & St. Paul, 2 Corinthians 13:14).

The **PRAYER OF THE DAY** gathers the assembly into one, focusing on the main themes from the day's readings or observances. These prayers are assigned for each Sunday of the Church Year and are often centuries old, binding the Church throughout time and location.

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

Our readings come from a three-year calendar cycle called a **LECTIONARY** (specifically, the Revised Common Lectionary.)

You can see the calendar of assigned lectionary readings, as well as the Prayer of the Day, in the ELW starting on page 18. A, B, & C stand for each of the lectionary cycle years: A is the year we hear most from Matthew's gospel, B from Mark's, and C from Luke's. ELW pg. 27 has today's readings and prayer listed – Second Sunday in Lent, Year A.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ O God, our leader and guide,
 ☑ **in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

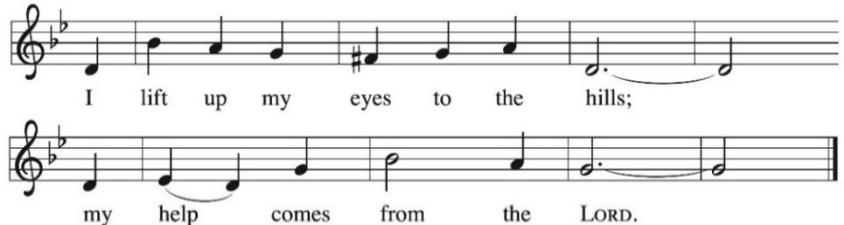
Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 26
God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

- ☐ Word of God, Word of Life. ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121 (*cantor/choir will sing the verses, congregation will sing the refrain*)



- ¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
 from where is my | help to come?
² My help comes | from the Lord,
 the maker of heav- | en and earth.
³ The Lord will not let your | foot be moved
 nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
⁴ Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
 will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; *Refrain*

⁵ the Lord watches | over you;
the Lord is your shade at | your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.
⁷ The Lord will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.
⁸ The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

The First Reading is most often from the Old Testament (also called the Hebrew Bible); the Second Reading is most often from the New Testament letters. In between we read or sing a Psalm. The Psalms are the bible's song book – written to be sung.

We rise and sing to acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present to us in the **GOSPEL** reading. The “Gospel Procession” (whether to the edge of the sanctuary or further into the nave) is a celebration of the Incarnation – of the Word of God moving dramatically into the very center of life. In more formal/festive services, incense can be used as the gospel is read. The reader of the gospel and the people may trace a cross on their forehead, lips, and heart just before the gospel is read as a reminder to be attentive (“May the Lord be on my mind, my lips, and my heart”).

The word “**GOSPEL**” means “good news”. The first four books of the New Testament are all Gospel’s because they tell us the Good News of God’s salvation through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

(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. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

☐ 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

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* **ELW 759 vs. 1-2**

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,
 thou Lamb of Calvary,
 Savior divine!
 Now hear me while I pray,
 take all my guilt away,
 oh, let me from this day
 be wholly thine!**
- 2 May thy rich grace impart
 strength to my fainting heart,
 my zeal inspire;
 as thou hast died for me,
 oh, may my love to thee
 pure, warm, and changeless be,
 a living fire!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

The **SERMON** brings God's word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith. It is crafted to make the Word a living and transforming reality in our lives.

The **CHILDREN'S BLESSING** does the same, briefly, for our youngest members before sending them to their age-appropriate exploration of scripture and faith.

God's word is further proclaimed by the assembly as we join in a song that illuminates ideas from our readings. This too is a proclamation of the word – this time by the whole gathered community.

That communal proclamation continues with the recitation of a **CREED**, as we confess our faith together, both as the gathered congregation and in agreement with the church throughout time and across the world.

The **APOSTLES' CREED**, the creed associated with baptism - titled such because it is an early church summary of the teachings and faith of the apostles, not because it was written by the apostles - is the creed usually chosen for Lent, and "Ordinary Time", the Sundays between Epiphany and Lent, and after Pentecost Sunday until Reformation Sunday. The Nicene Creed is usually chosen for festival days and sometimes during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Easter. However it is also appropriate to omit a creed altogether.

During the Creed, some people offer the following acts of reverence: bowing the head at the name of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:10), bowing during the proclamation of the Incarnation ("who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"), and making the sign of the cross in joyful embrace of God's promise as we proclaim "the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting".

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- L** Let us confess together the faith of the Church.
- C** **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** Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great**

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

Prayers this week: Warren Cooke, Marvel Green (sister of Betty Callies), Kevin Hertz (father of Toby Rees), Phil Meyer, Dan Wolf

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, 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* –Mallory Hoogestraat, daughter of JD & Julie Hoogestraat, Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken & Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert & 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.

C **And also with you.**

The **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**, sometimes called **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**, are our prayers for others, for both specific and wider concerns. These prayer petitions follow a pattern focusing on:

- the church
- all creation
- the nations of the world
- people in need
- our community and congregation
- and the saints who have died.

We draw our prayers from an online ELCA resource called “Sundays and Seasons”. These prayers are prepared in advance by writers from across the church and often draw on themes from scriptures assigned for the week. The preacher edits & adapts these prayers for our particular community & context. The prayers include times of silence and are deliberately slow enough to leave space for you to lift up your own specific prayers as we pray.

In the **SHARING OF THE PEACE** we affirm our reconciliation with one another as we prepare to offer our gifts and receive communion. See Matthew 5:23-24.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

A collection of money or other material goods for the sake of the mission of our congregation and the wider church – including the care of those in need – is a sign of giving our whole selves in grateful response for all God’s gifts. During this time bread and wine for the meal are brought forward and the table is prepared for the meal. The offerings are a part of the riches God has given to us and we offer them back to God in thanksgiving.

Music is another kind of offering given to God as the gifts of the assembly are collected. This gives time for reflection and prayer as we prepare to receive the meal. On more formal/festive liturgies, incense can be used as the altar is prepared, a reference to the use of incense in the Temple and in joyful anticipation of Christ’s sacramental presence in the meal.

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

God so Loved the World

John Stainer

(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.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

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 - 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.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is more rhythmic and varied than the Thanksgiving hymn, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads the congregation into a time of thanksgiving.

“EUCCHARIST” come from the Greek word “eucharistia”, meaning **THANKSGIVING**. In the prayers leading us to the table we celebrate and give thanks for God's saving acts, culminating in Jesus Christ.

“SANCTUS” is Latin for “**HOLY**.” This ancient hymn of praise joins our voices with the angels, expanding on the song of the seraphim in Isaiah 6 and the cry of the crowds on Palm Sunday in Matthew 21. In joyful anticipation of Christ's true and real presence in the Eucharist, it has been a tradition among some to make a sign of the cross at the phrase “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

We use different **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS** in different seasons or for different occasions, mostly drawn from Evangelical Lutheran Worship resources. See ELW pg. 133 for the prayer we are currently using. There are eleven Eucharistic Prayers included in the ELW (see pgs. 130-133, 65-70) and more in other resources.

All the Eucharistic Prayers follow a similar pattern – beginning with giving thanks to God for God’s saving acts and revelation to God’s people. God is praised for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ. The words recorded in Scripture that Jesus said over the bread and wine – called the **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** – are repeated. In these words we hear the command and promise of the sacrament Jesus himself instituted on the night when he was betrayed. See Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Finally we ask for the Holy Spirit to be among us in this meal and for God to send us out in mission and witness to the world.

One may bow after the consecration of the bread and wine, in affirmation that Jesus Christ is now truly present with us in, with, and under the elements of the Lord’s Supper. We conclude by praying together the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us. See Matthew 6:9-13.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- L** Blessed are you, O God of the universe. ...
... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- L** O God of resurrection and new life ...
... Grace our table with your presence.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- L** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. ...
... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace and love.
- C** **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.
- 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 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.*

AGNUS DEI is Latin for "LAMB OF GOD." This threefold prayer reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God (see John 1:29). Here we are reminded that Christ is present in this bread and cup, and we are to behold his glory.

The act of breaking the bread recalls both Jesus breaking bread at the Last Supper, and Jesus' own body broken on the cross for us.

ALL ARE WELCOME at God's table. This meal is traditionally the meal of the baptized – those who have been baptized, in any tradition, are invited to receive. We do not check "credentials" in any form – if you hunger and thirst for the forgiveness God offers you in this meal, come and eat. Anyone who does not wish to receive is invited to come forward for a blessing.

- 1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.
- 2 We taste you, ever-living bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead;
our thirsting souls from you we fill.
- 3 For you our restless spirits yearn,
where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you turn,
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
- 4 O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

ELW 750

- 1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart;
I pray thee, ne'er from me depart;
with tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share,
yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
if thou, Lord, were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
my trust in thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought;
thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
forsake me not! I trust thy word.
- 2 Yea, Lord, thy own rich bounty gave
my body, soul, and all I have
in this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
may glorify thy lavish grace
and serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false teaching me beguile,
let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
to bear my cross and follow thee.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
in death thy comfort still afford.
- 3 Lord, let at last thine angels come,
to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
that I may die unfearing;
and in its narrow chamber keep
my body safe in peaceful sleep
until thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
that these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, thy glorious face,
my Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
and I will praise thee without end!

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

(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.**

The communion meal nourishes us for mission. We thank God for the gifts given to us in this meal, and ask God to send us out as witnesses in the world.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* ELW 543

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**
- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**
- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

† † †

God blesses and sends us in mission to the world.

We ask God’s blessing on those who will take this consecrated meal to those who cannot be physically present with us in worship particularly the homebound and hospitalized.

The presiding minister blesses the assembly in the name of the Triune God.

“AMEN” is an ancient Hebrew-derived word meaning “truth” or “may it be so.” Three is a symbolic number in Scripture, representing the wholeness or divine perfection.

The SENDING brings our worship full circle. We join in singing a final song. We have been gathered, in all our diversity, and through word and meal shaped into a community – one body in Christ. Now with the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ’s body in the world.

We are sent out in mission, always anticipating to gather again soon around the Means of Grace – God’s word and sacrament.

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

February 28 & March 1, 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 by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

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.

March 1: Fellowship

March 8: Variety of Liturgies for 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 for any questions you may have.

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



SS Teachers

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

March 2 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 3 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

March 4 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Meal
12:15 PM Worship
5:00 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

March 5 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

March 6 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

March 7 Saturday

3:00 PM OSJ Training & Worship Workshops
5:00 PM Worship

6:20 PM High School Night Out

March 8 Sunday

Lent 3
Daylight Savings--spring ahead 1 hour
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
12:15 PM Book Group

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 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

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.

High School Night Out

Get Out Omaha Escape Room

Saturday, March 7

Meet at KMLC at 6:20 PM (we leave promptly!)

Think you can escape? Join us for an Escape Room adventure in Omaha! After we beat the clock, we'll head to the Old Market for ice cream. Please RSVP to Sheila at sheila@kmlchurch.org or use the QR code above. Bring a friend. Bring your brain. Don't get locked in.



sheila@kmlchurch.org

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 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 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

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 2nd. 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.

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

Summer Youth Mission Trip

Dates: July 6–12, 2026

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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 canned pasta, dry pasta, body wash. 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/uasdddd>

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

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

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)

LENTEN MEAL MENU FOR MARCH 4

Choice of
Potato Soup
or Minestrone
Ham or Chicken Salad
Croissants
Assorted Cookies

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

All KMLC children, youth, friends, and families are invited to join us.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, February 26—Wednesday, March 4

Saturday: 28
Sunday: 9:00: 125 11:00: 72
Wednesday: 12:15: 36
Total: 279
Streaming: 86
Pantry Guests Served: 358 (inc. 97 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served:
Offering:
 \$12,020.04 (Regular) \$3,667.52 (Specials)
 \$728.00 (Debt Reduction)

We are blessed to bless others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world
Monday	Genesis 12:1-4a	The call of Abram
Tuesday	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	God keeps his promise
Wednesday	Jeremiah 17:7-8	Trust the Lord
Thursday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
Friday	Numbers 6:22-27	Blessing for the people
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well



© 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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, as you bless us each day in faith, help us to bless others through your never-failing love through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you who watch over our going out and our coming in, we thank you for this food that nurtures us day by day, through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 121:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you every day.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it mean to be blessed?
- Abram and Sarai were called to God to bless all the families of the earth. How do you think this affected the way they lived?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Genesis 12:1-6.

Abram and his wife Sarai are sent on a faith quest. They look rather foolish to the world. They leave the security of a kinship community to go out and trust an unknown God while becoming foreigners in a strange land. The faith of Abram and Sarai in this passage is not defined by doctrines or clear convictions. Faith is a walk of life where people learn who their God is through a trusted relationship. This is true in the Gospel of John as well where faith is never a noun. It is always a verb, an action that trusts in a relationship that recognizes that one's entire existence is dependent upon God. That is what faith looks like. And it has consequences for others because faith is never a private affair: *"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3b).

Discuss: How would you describe the journey of faith that you have been on?

Pray: **Living God, you call us to ventures we cannot fully imagine. Help us to trust you and know you will lead us all the days of our lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you bless someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the second week in Lent, light two of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents **"C"**, for Confession, meaning to confess one's sins and receive God's forgiveness.

Pray: **Dear God, I confess that I do not fully place my trust in you. Forgive me for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42