

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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April 5, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

*Alleluia!*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Kountze Brass & Timpani  
Carl Eitzen, Dan Nesbitt, *trumpet*  
Jason Stromquist, Jay Wise, *trombone*  
Jack Rago, *timpani*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## THE EASTER ACCLAMATION!

- L** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- L** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
- C** **Amen.**

- L** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us including the Platte and the Missouri.

Blessed are you.

- C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

- L** Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

- C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

- L** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

- C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

- L** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3;  
tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4

## 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*This is the Feast*

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

*Refrain*



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

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ O God,

☞ you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

**P**eter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are

witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

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

This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us re-joice and be glad in it.

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God’s mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare,  
“God’s mercy endures forever.”**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD. Refrain**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>“This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation. Refrain**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Refrain*

## SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

🎵 Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 482*

*Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

📖 The Gospel of our Lord

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

After the blessing, children are encouraged to return to the pew with their families.

## SERMON

Pastor Hall

(rise in body or spirit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*

ELW 377

**1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!**  
**Trumpets resounding in glorious light!**  
**Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!**  
**Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

*Refrain*

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise.**  
**Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**2 Walking the way, Christ in the center**  
**telling the story to open our eyes;**  
**breaking our bread, giving us glory:**  
**Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.**  
*Refrain*

**3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;**  
**life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;**  
**heaven to earth, Christ to the people,**  
**gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain***

**4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:**  
**death put asunder, and Easter is bright.**  
**Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!**  
**Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.**  
*Refrain*

**5 City of God, Easter forever,**  
**golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,**  
**river of life, saints and archangels,**  
**sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain***

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## NICENE CREED

**☒ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:    **L** Merciful God,  
                  **C** receive our prayer.

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

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Marie Kubat

**Prayers this week:** Larry Lee Britton, Judy Williams (mother of Lynn Schneiderman)

**On-going Care:** John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Charles & Kathy Cole, Irving Collett, Warren Cooke, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Marvel Green, Janice Hansen, Kevin Hertz, Larry & Michele Hunzeker, Jay Jacobson, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Julie Knapp, Jack Kubat, Glenn Lindgren, Elizabeth Luczynski, Charles Martis, Sharon Miley, Ralph Morse, Dan & Ginny Rath, Joyce Wachal, Allyson White, Michael Yount

**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; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarrians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** 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. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!*



### THE TABLE IS PREPARED

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*To the Lamb on the Throne*

Dan Forrest  
Kountze Choir, Brass & Timpani

(rise in body or spirit)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Christ is Living*

ACS 934 vs. 1 & 3



1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor - row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.  
3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic - t'ry; sin has lost its poi - son sting.



Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev - 'ry pow'r.  
Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.



Why then seek the liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?  
For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"



Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.  
Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

Text: Nicolás Martínez, 1917–1972; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951  
English text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

## OFFERING PRAYER

☪ Merciful God,

☑ **accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

The image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff has 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

## PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

### SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

The image shows a musical score for 'Sanctus' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff has 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff has 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓛ Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
... With this bread and cup ... we proclaim the mystery of faith



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

- Ⓛ O God of resurrection and new life: ...  
... Grace our table with your presence.
- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- Ⓛ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread ...  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- Ⓛ With your holy ones ... we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

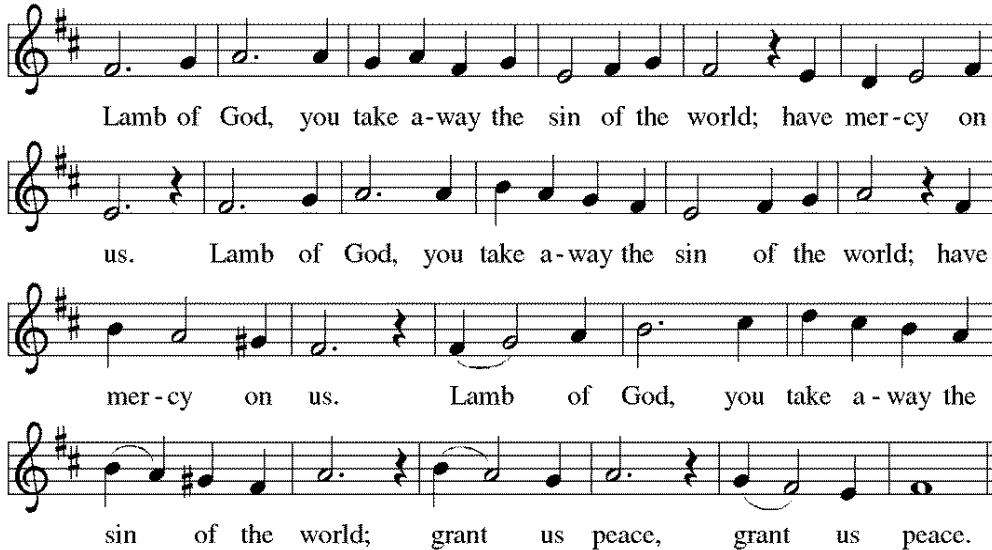
- Ⓛ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

- ☑ **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, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- Come receive the risen Lord.
- We come to the table of new life.

(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.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*

**ELW 385**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!<br/>Now is the triumph of our king!<br/>To all the world glad news we bring:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;<br/>death's mighty stone is rolled away;<br/>let all the world rejoice and say:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> | <p><b>3 Praise we in songs of victory<br/>that love, that life, which cannot die,<br/>and sing with hearts uplifted high:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,<br/>and sing today with one accord,<br/>the life laid down, the life restored:<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> |
|--|--|

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.  
Text © 1952, ren. 1986 Hymns *Ancient & Modern*, admin.  
Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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- 1 **That Easter day with joy was bright;  
the sun shone out with fairer light  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!**
- 2 **O Jesus, king of gentleness,  
with constant love our hearts possess;  
to you our lips will ever raise  
the tribute of our grateful praise.**
- 3 **O Christ, you are the Lord of all  
in this our Easter festival,  
for you will be our strength and shield  
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.**
- 4 **All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
to you, once dead, but now alive!  
To God the Father equal praise,  
and God the Spirit, now we raise!**

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

ELW 367

- 1 **Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 **Eternal is the gift he brings,  
therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life  
and by his presence stills all strife.  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 3 **Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day  
that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4 **Adoring praises now we bring  
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
all the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.  
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- 1 With high delight let us unite  
in songs of sweet jubilation.  
You pure in heart, all bear your part,  
sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.  
To set us free forever, he  
is ris'n and sends to all earth's ends  
good news to save ev'ry nation.**
- 2 True God, he first from death has burst  
forth into life, all subduing.  
His enemy now vanquished see;  
his death has been death's undoing.  
“And yours shall be like victory  
o'er death and grave,” says he, who gave  
his life for us, life renewing.**
- 3 Let praises ring; give thanks, and bring  
to Christ our Lord adoration.  
His honor speed by word and deed  
to ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.  
So shall his love give us above,  
from misery and death set free,  
all joy and full consolation.**

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-1599;  
tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976, alt. Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## THE BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- L** Holy One,  
**C** **through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

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# SENDING

## BLESSING

**L** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**L** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

ELW 389

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

## DISMISSAL

**L** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠



# Easter 2026

## Easter lilies are given to the glory of God...

### in memory of:

- parents and grandparents .....given by Jim & Lesley Akers
- cousin, David Watts .....given by Jim & Lesley Akers
- Marvin Andersen .....given by his family
- Dean Anderson, Sr.....given by wife, Darlene Anderson
- Uncle Tom Sullivan, who we miss so much.....Brett, Jack, and Grandma Kathe Bailey
- Grandma Jane Bailey, who we miss so much.....Brett, Jack, and Grandma Kathe Bailey
- Grandma Marge Sullivan, who we miss so much...Brett, Jack, and Grandma Kathe Bailey
- loved ones ..... given by Dean Bard
- loved ones ..... given by Karen and Shirley Bonneau
- Ruth and Russell Bonneau ..... given by Karen and Shirley Bonneau
- Camenzind, Moeller, and Chrisman families .....given by Larry & Fran Camenzind
- David & Lois Carlsen .....given by the Carlson, Campbell, & Jones families
- Floyd & Alice Chase .....given by the Carlson, Campbell, & Jones families
- Viggo & Viola Carlsen.....given by the Carlson, Campbell, & Jones families
- husband, Dwaine ..... given by Ellie Carlson
- loved ones ..... given by Ellie Carlson
- Lawrence & Marion Cooke..... given by Warren Cooke
- Thelma & Joe Councill, Marie & Ed Debus, Jackie & Stephie McCoy, Pat & Lou  
Granneman, Kathy Stauffer, and Vern McAleer .....given by Joe Councill family
- Carey Grow ..... given by Trish Daffer
- Dorothy Danigole ..... given by Trish Daffer
- Eileen Burke-Sullivan ..... given by Trish Daffer
- Irma Thraen..... given by Trish Daffer
- Jean Kenner ..... given by Trish Daffer
- Patricia Grow ..... given by Trish Daffer
- mom, dad, Jan, and Sheryl..... given by Barb Donelson
- loved ones ..... given by Gloria Erickson
- Kelcey Renae Fike ..... given by Mary Jo Fike & family
- Randall S. Fike..... given by Mary Jo Fike & family
- J.A. & Bernetta Johnson ..... given by Mary Jo Fike

father, Rocco.....given by Caleb Fili, Sarah & Josh Kellams  
Dorothy & Wayne Fischer .....given by family  
our parents .....given by Bob & Sandy Fonda  
Eugene Fonda .....given by William Fonda  
Mildred Fonda .....given by William Fonda  
Sharon Fonda.....given by William Fonda  
parents Anne & Charles Forslund .....given by Christine Forslund  
Hannah Rief ..... given by grandparents, Vicki & Leigh Freeman  
Rick Thomas ..... given by Leigh Freeman  
Albert Grage..... given by his family  
Mary Rose Gruber ..... given by mom & dad  
Bob & Gayle Ringo..... given by Tom & Theresa Gruber  
Dolores Gruber .....given by Tom & Theresa Gruber  
Jeffrey Hage..... given by the Hage family  
Vic Thomas and Nicolle Baker..... given by the Hage family  
Joyce E. Hahn..... given by Wayne Hahn & family  
Elaine Drickey..... given by the Hansen family  
George Pickinpaugh..... given by the Hansen family  
Stacie Heim Olson..... given by Doug & Judy Heim  
Jeff Helgenberger..... given by Cathy Helgenberger  
Byron, Elizabeth, and Janet Woodhull.....given by Karen & Steve Jacobson  
Norris, Evelyn, and Brian Jacobson .....given by Karen & Steve Jacobson  
Debby Engler.....given by Steve & Karen Jacobson  
loved ones ..... given by the Jensen, Muchmore, and Luczynski families  
Sandy Johnson ..... given by Curt Johnson & family  
our parents ..... given by Ken & Linda Johnson  
Geri Laney and Carole Olson..... given by Ken & Linda Johnson  
beloved brother, Peter Andrew Miller ..... given by Ann Miller  
beloved grandparents, Andy, Helen, Moe, and Dorothy..... given by Ann Miller  
Lyle Nissen ..... given by Bruce & Barb Nissen  
Nita & Richard Mueller..... given by Bruce & Barb Nissen  
Don & Jean Nippert..... given by Marvin & Kris Olson  
Marvin P. Olson, Jr..... given by Marvin & Kris Olson  
William H. Green..... given by Marvin & Kris Olson  
Russ & Donna Olson ..... given by Steve Olson  
Joe Olson ..... given by Steve Olson  
Richard Orris..... given by Michael Orris  
Charles Allner ..... given by Jeff & Robin Perkins  
Elmer Pfeiffer ..... given by Gary Pfeiffer and family  
Lorraine Beil Pfeiffer..... given by Gary Pfeiffer and family

Lola Reed .....given by her family  
 Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal .....given by his grandchildren  
 Hannah Rief .....given by her parents and siblings  
 Margaret Sack ..... given by Norm Sack  
 Marjean Sack ..... given by Norm Sack  
 Barbara Saklar ..... given by Tracy Saklar and Kris Placzek & family  
 Charles & Augusta Laushman ..... given by Tracy Saklar and Kris Placzek & family  
 Chris & Nadine Saklar ..... given by Tracy Saklar and Kris Placzek & family  
 Joy Beavers ..... given by Tracy Saklar and Kris Placzek & family  
 Waltraut "Wally" Sander ..... given by Irene Sander  
 Lee Sealer .....given by Judy Sealer  
 Parents, Guy & Joy Oberg ..... given by Ron & Karen Sides  
 Parents, BK, and Betty Sides ..... given by Ron & Karen Sides  
 Vinn Stephens .....given by family  
 Debby Woosley .....given by family  
 our parents .....given by Pat & David Studts  
 Barb Chrisman .....given by Pat & David Studts  
 Lloyd & Ethel ..... given by Mark Sullivan  
 Pat, Jerry, and John Sullivan .....given by Mark Sullivan  
 Dr. Dudley Syré .....given by Mary Syré  
 M. Eugene & Barbara Tollefson, Wayne Tollefson,  
   Noel Tollefson .....given by David Tollefson  
 Edna & Raymond Kroc ..... given by Marsha Vance & Jerry Fischer  
 Sam Weigel ..... given by Erica & Prin Weigel  
 Wyne Thomas ..... given by Amy Wemhoff  
 Pat Schuler ..... given by Amy Wemhoff  
 Don Wichert ..... given by wife, Vickie  
 Dan Wolf ..... given by the Wolf family  
 August & Evelyn Worm ..... given by Chet & Sara Worm  
 Randolph & Rachel Anderson ..... given by Chet & Sara Worm  
 Bob, Kathy, and Tricia Wynard .....given by the Wynard family  
 Bob & Wilma Wallin ..... given by Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein

**in honor of:**

Bridgette, Everly, Vincent, and Taityn ..... given by Karen and Shirley Bonneau  
 Kountze Volunteers ..... given by Debbie Bogue  
 our family ..... given by Ron & Pam Brown  
 Jim & Linda Comforts 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary ..... given by the Brown family  
 our children and grandchildren .....given by the Campbells

our grandchildren Joey, Jackson and Lilly Council, Ty Council,  
and Sam Gillespe ..... given by Patt & Joe Council  
Henry, Hadley, Maddie, and Dylan..... given by grandpa & grandma Freeman  
Ethan, Markus, Sam, Henry, Ken, and Kai ..... given by grandpa & grandma  
our parents and grandparents ..... given by Scott & Ruth Henneman  
our children and grandchildren..... given by Scott & Ruth Henneman  
my grandchildren ..... given by Joan Jacobson Trotter  
Joan Jacobson Trotter ..... given by family  
our 13 grandchildren ..... given by Ken & Linda Johnson  
our great granddaughter, Basil ..... given by Ken & Linda Johnson  
Charlie Ziegenbein and Elizabeth Noel..... given by Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein

**Love Gift:**

David Falk  
JD & Julie Hoogestraat  
Jenni Toebben



## 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)

April 4 & 5, 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

*Alleluia!*

### 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>



**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Christine Forslund in memory of Anne Forslund

### Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

9:15 AM

Grades K-6

No Children's Choir Easter Sunday, but join us again next Sunday 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.

### Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday

8 - 10:45 AM

The youth will be providing egg casseroles, fruit, and yogurt on this morning. Be sure to check out the bake sale. All proceeds from the breakfast will go to support our Youth Mission Trip to Nashville this summer, so please be generous if you are able.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday

Following the 9 AM Service

Join us in the Green Space (off the link and weather permitting) for this fun event.

### Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

No Sunday School today, but join us again in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Rooms on April 12.

## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### Youth Forum Sundays, 10:15 AM Youth Center Grades 7-12

No Youth Forum this Sunday, but youth are invited to join us again each week beginning April 12 during the Sunday Faith Formation hour.

### Adult Forum Sundays, 10:10 AM

No Forum today, but join us again on April 12 in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

April 5: Fellowship (Easter Sunday Breakfast)

April 12: Youth Extravaganza Update (Deacon Eric and Sheila Valquier)

### 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

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### April 5 Sunday

Easter  
7:30 AM Sunrise Easter Worship  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Easter Breakfast

### April 6 Monday

Office Closed  
10:00 AM Pantry

### April 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### April 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy's  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### April 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### April 10 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 11 Saturday

Homebound Communion  
5:00 PM Worship

### April 12 Sunday

Easter 2  
Homebound Communion  
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  
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast  
10:10 AM Faith Formation  
10:15 AM New Member Class  
12:15 PM Book Group

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

**Confirmation Classes Resume**  
**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church**  
**(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)**  
**Grades 7 & 8**  
**Wednesdays, 6 - 7:15 PM**

### April Street Car Update

#### April 10—13

Next weekend, April 10 through 6:00 AM Monday, April 13, Interstate I-480 will be closed in both directions to set the girders for the Farnam Street bridge. All traffic will have to exit and follow detours, so you'll need to allow extra time to arrive at church on Saturday night and Sunday morning April 11 and 12.

### 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 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/>



CJH Gala

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

### New Member Classes

**April 12 & 19**

**10:15 AM**

Considering membership at Kountze Memorial? Join us for our upcoming new member classes and learn more about becoming part of our church family. Both sessions are important, so please plan to attend each one. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, April 26. If you have questions or would like to sign up, contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or [info@kmlchurch.org](mailto:info@kmlchurch.org). We're excited to get to know you! In the meantime, you're invited to worship with us and join in any activities that interest you.

### KMLC Book Group

**Sunday, April 12**

**12:15 PM**

#### Fellowship Lounge

***The Book of Joy* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond TuTu with Douglas Abrams**

Join us for a joyful discussion. "Laughter is good for the heart".

### Men's Lunch

**Thursday, April 16**

**11:30 AM**

**Suggested Donation: \$10**

We're not sure of the menu or if there will be a particular topic for discussion, but it doesn't matter. There's always great food and great fellowship!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 14. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to let us know you're planning to attend.

### Cinco de Mayo

**Saturday, May 2**

**6-8 PM**

Come celebrate with an evening full of music, flavor, and fun! Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a festive Celebration the whole family can enjoy. Sample a delicious spread of authentic Mexican food and homemade desserts, sip on refreshing mock margaritas, and experience the lively sounds of Omaha's own Mariachi band, Mariachi Los Caballeros, performing live! Throughout the evening, try your luck with our raffle baskets as well. Whether you come for the food, the music, or the community, there will be something for everyone.

Ticket Prices at the door:

Adults (14+): \$25

Kids: \$10

Ages 5 & under: Free

Bring your friends, bring your family, and come

celebrate together with great food, great music, and great company! Proceeds to benefit youth attending the Pittsburgh trip this summer!

### Growing Justice Together

**Sunday, May 3**

**Time: 2-4 PM**

#### Glacial Till

**1419 Silver St · Ashland, NE**

Lay and rostered leaders are invited to an afternoon of learning, connection, and community at Glacial Till in Ashland. Join the Nebraska Synod's Social Justice Ministry Teams to explore how you and your congregation can love your neighbor more deeply—in your own community, across the Nebraska Synod, and throughout the world. More information can be found using the link below or the QR code.

<https://tinyurl.com/35va454j>



Growing Justice

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are spaghetti noodles, soup, & bottled water. 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 grocery bags.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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



Pantry

### Attendance & Giving

**Thursday, March 26—Wednesday, April 1**

**Saturday:** 31

**Sunday: 9:00:** 196 **11:00:** 106

**Monday—Wednesday: 12:15:** 23

**Total:** 356

**Streaming:** 77

**Pantry Guests Served:** 527 (inc. 157 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 15

**Offering:**

\$14,321.49 (Regular) \$3,979.02 (Specials)

\$77.15 (Debt Reduction)

*Faith in Jesus means a relationship with Jesus.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Peter addresses the crowd
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Wednesday	Mark 10:46-52	The healing of blind Bartimaeus
Thursday	John 4:1-30	Woman at the well with Jesus
Friday	John 4:46-54	Jesus heals an official's son
Saturday	Psalm 16	Song of trust in God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus



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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

*Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." John 20:28-29 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, strengthen us in faith; give us the desire to know you more day by day that we may live with love and hope through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we receive this food with joy, knowing that all good gifts come from you. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord, bring you joy.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are words that describe your relationship with a friend or family member?
- In what ways can you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 20:19-31.

It is hard to read this text and not be influenced by the title "doubting Thomas." However, it is only Thomas in the entire Gospel of John who makes the confession of faith that Jesus is God and more specifically, "My God" (v. 28). In this passage there are at least two important points revealed about the Christian faith: 1) faith is relational (Thomas personalizes Jesus as "My God"), and 2) faith is a lifelong journey. Jesus blessed those who "come to believe" (v. 29). The Greek text denotes a continuous process, not just believing at a certain point in time, but continuing to believe. In a faith that is relational, this ongoing process of believing and relating to Jesus is essential. What Jesus means for us and to us will continue to develop for a lifetime. As we age and as we have new experiences and challenges, the meaning of Jesus for our lives and our world evolves, even as we evolve and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Our relationship with Jesus grows and develops over time.

*Discuss:* How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

*Pray:* **Come, Lord Jesus, into my life again this day, that I may gladly acknowledge you as my God and have life through you each and every day. 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 others to see Jesus as Lord through your actions and words?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, he said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19b). This has become a traditional greeting among Christians as a reminder of Christ's presence. Greet friends and family in your home using these words: "**Peace be with you.**"

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31