

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 12, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY in EASTER



*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

*(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 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.

### 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*



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



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



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



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



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

- ☞ Almighty and eternal God,
- ☞ **the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God’s plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

**P**eter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: <sup>22</sup>“Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know <sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup>therefore my

heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

<sup>32</sup> “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 16

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



In your pres-ence there is full-ness of joy.

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take ref-<sup>1</sup>uge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good a-<sup>1</sup>bove all other.”

<sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are<sup>1</sup> in the land,  
upon those who are noble a-<sup>1</sup>mong the people.**

<sup>3</sup> But those who run after<sup>1</sup> other gods  
shall have their troubles<sup>1</sup> multiplied.

<sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings<sup>1</sup> to such gods,  
never take their names up-<sup>1</sup> on my lips. Refrain**

<sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are my portion<sup>1</sup> and my cup;  
it is you who up-<sup>1</sup>hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a<sup>1</sup> pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a<sup>1</sup> rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who<sup>1</sup> gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night<sup>1</sup> after night.

<sup>8</sup> **I have set the Lord al-<sup>1</sup>ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall<sup>1</sup> not be shaken. Refrain**

<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir-<sup>1</sup>it rejoices;  
my body also shall<sup>1</sup> rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me<sup>1</sup> to the grave,  
nor let your holy one<sup>1</sup> see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the<sup>1</sup> path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for-<sup>1</sup>evermore. Refrain

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

**B**lessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

☐ 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. John.

☑ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

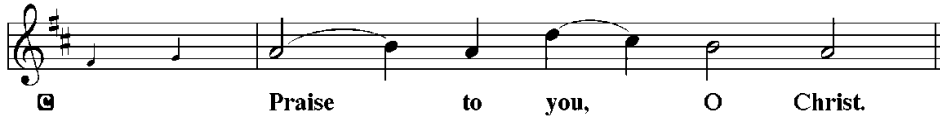
John 20:19-31

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 492*  
*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

**W**hen it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were

shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> 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.”<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

☐ The Gospel of our Lord



(sit)

**CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)**

*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.*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Wynard*

(rise in body or spirit)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The Risen Christ*

**ELW 390**

- 1 The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet  
from garden tomb through darkened city street,  
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,  
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.**
- 2 The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,  
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide  
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;  
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.**
- 3 The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand  
the bread for those who fail to understand,  
reveals himself, despite their ling’ring tears,  
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.**
- 4 May we, Christ’s body, walk and serve and stand  
with those oppressed in this and every land,  
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,  
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

## 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 Jay Jacobson (son of Joan Jacobson-Trotter), & Bill Smejkal (uncle of Jim Smejkal)

**Prayers this week:** Judy Williams

**On-going Care:** John Bodnar, Larry Lee Britton, 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, 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

**L** 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

*Come, Proclaim the Victory*

words by J. Paul Williams  
music by M. Martin

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Earth, Earth, Awake!*

ACS 937 vs. 1 & 4



1 Earth, earth, a - wake! Your prais - es sing! Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Praise we the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! Al - le - lu - ia!



Greet with the dawn your ris - en King! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise we the vic - t'ry God has won! Al - le - lu - ia!



Bright suns and stars, your hom - age pay! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise we the Lamb who reigns a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!



Life reigns a - gain this Eas - ter day! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise we the King whose rule is love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

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## OFFERING PRAYER

**L** Merciful God,

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

## PREFACE FOR EASTER

- ☐ 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. 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 lyrics are: '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.'

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

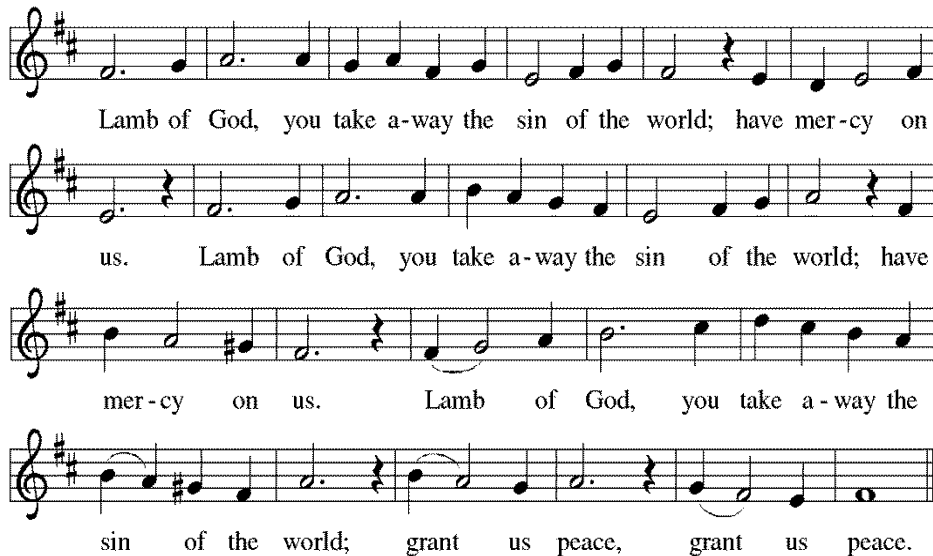
- Ⓐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

- Ⓑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI



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

First Communion received by

Haakon Michael Reilly



1 Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers, Christ has ris - en  
 2 Christ has ris - en for the peo - ple whom he died to  
 3 Christ has ris - en to com - pan - ion for - mer friends who  
 4 Christ has ris - en and for - ev - er lives to chal - lenge



where hope died, as he said and as he prom - ised,  
 love and save; Christ has ris - en for the wom - en  
 fear the night, sens - ing loss and lim - i - ta - tion  
 and to change all whose lives are messed or man - gled,



as we doubt - ed and de - nied. Let the moon em -  
 bring - ing flow'rs to grace his grave. Christ has ris - en  
 where their faith had once burned bright. They be - moan what  
 all who find re - li - gion strange. Christ is ris - en,



brace the bless - ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer; let the  
 for dis - ci - ples, hud - dled in an up - stairs room. He whose  
 is no long - er, they ex - pect no hope - ful sign till Christ  
 Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been: ev - i -



world con - firm the ru - mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!  
 word in - spired cre - a - tion can't be si - lenced by the tomb.  
 ends their con - ver - sa - tion, break - ing bread and shar - ing wine.  
 dence of trans - for - ma - tion in which God is known and seen.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

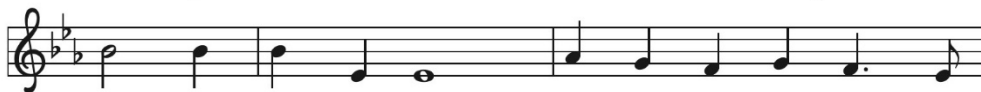
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1 Lift up your heads, all you bowed low,  
 2 Lift up your hands, your voices raise,  
 3 Lift up your hearts, your great A - men;  
 4 Be - hold, the Spir - it here a - bides,



hear the liv - ing wa - ter flow: quench - ing  
 bold in plead - ing, bright with praise. Weep no  
 Mer - cy feeds her guests a - gain: bread e -  
 bear - ing God's a - bun - dant life: peace be -



spring and cleans - ing pool, heal - ing riv - er, clear and  
 more, your God has come; greet the wound - ed, ris - en  
 nough to break and share, fes - tive wine that scents the  
 tween you, love with - in, grace be - side you loos - 'ning



cool. How fresh it falls up -  
 One, who bless - es you with  
 air. Oh, taste and see what  
 sin. Be - lov - ed, Christ a -



on your face, stream - ing from the font of grace.  
 joy com - plete, dwell - ing in the Word of peace.  
 once was lost ris - ing in this feast of love.  
 mong you stands, mov - ing through your hearts and hands.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Text © 2013 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## THE BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Holy One,

☞ **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.**

# SENDING

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### BLESSING

- ☒ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
  
- ☒ 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

*Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*

ELW 380 vs. 1, 3-5

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!<br/>He is now the Living One;<br/>from the gloomy halls of death<br/>Christ, the conqueror, has gone,<br/>bright forerunner to the skies<br/>of his people, yet to rise.</b></p> <p><b>3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,<br/>life eternal waits for you;<br/>joined to Christ, your living head,<br/>where he is, you shall be too;<br/>with the Lord, at God's right hand,<br/>as a victor you shall stand.</b></p> | <p><b>4 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.<br/>Praise him, ransomed of the earth.<br/>Praise him in a nobler song,<br/>cherubim of heav'nly birth.<br/>Praise the victor king, whose sway<br/>sin and death and hell obey.</b></p> <p><b>5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!<br/>Join with us in hymns of praise.<br/>Let your chorus swell the strain<br/>which our feebler voices raise:<br/>Glory to our God above<br/>and on earth his peace and love!</b></p> |
|---|---|

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

### DISMISSAL

- ☒ Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
- ☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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## KOUNTZE STAFF

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



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 11 & 12, 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

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored to the glory of God by Mark Andreesen in memory of his father, Earl.

**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. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

### Sunday School

**10:10 AM**

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

Join us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, storytelling, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with the breakfast.

### Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children or anyone who does not commune will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (for health or other reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction, meaning you will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip it into the wine.

### Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

### Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

### Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plates located by the doors in the Nave.

### E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

### Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

### Scan to Give Online



Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.

### Connect with Pr. Lucy

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Lucy by following the link or QR Code. <https://calendly.com/pastor-lucy/45min>



## Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

### 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.

### Adult Forum

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

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

April 12: Council Innovative Projects

April 19: Icon Writing Description and Discussion with Jane Tan Creti

### 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

### 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".

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### 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

### April 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### April 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### April 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline

12:15 PM Worship

### April 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

5:30 PM Christian Education

Committee

6:00 PM Circle 5

### April 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### April 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### April 19 Sunday

Easter 3

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

10:15 AM New Member Class

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Confirmation Class

**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church**

**(93<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge)**

**Grades 7 & 8**

**Wednesdays, 6 - 7:15 PM**

### 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

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

Desk, or email Jim at [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to let us know you're planning to attend.

### We're Invited!

#### Magdalene Omaha 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party ICC Bowlatorium

2701 S 25<sup>th</sup> St

Sunday, April 19

3—6 PM

They have supported over 1,000 survivors of sex trafficking since their founding in 2016. Magdalene Omaha is grateful to everyone who has made it possible to show over 1,000 times how love is the most powerful force for change in this world so they want to celebrate with a party. All ages are welcome—please RSVP via the link below so they know how many to plan on attending. If you are unable to attend but would like to help, you may donate with the link below. You may also email:

[events@magdaleneomaha.org](mailto:events@magdaleneomaha.org) with any questions.

RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/2umsr378>

Donate here: <https://tinyurl.com/mpnvamvp>



Magdalene RSV



Donate

### 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



Growing 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>

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are soup, canned pasta, and 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 grocery bags.

<https://tinyurl.com/uausddd>

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



Pantry

### Stories from your Nebraska Synod

#### Service Fridays—More Than a Summer Program

The Synod newsletter featured an article on our Service Fridays. Last summer, youth going into grades 7, 8, and 9, were invited to participate in service projects within our church and community. The day began between 8 and 9 AM with a light breakfast, lunch was served, and the day ended at 4 PM. Projects included making art for the pantry and freshening up the youth room, working in the community garden, reading or playing board games with the elderly, and more.

Watch for information for Service Fridays, 2026 and check out the article from the Nebraska Synod by using the link or QR code.

<https://tinyurl.com/3rw44b6v>



Service Fridays

### Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 2—Wednesday, April 8

Saturday: 42

Sunday: 9:00: 403 11:00: 195

Wednesday: 12:15: 12

Total: 652

Streaming: 140

Pantry Guests Served: 214 (inc. 72 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served:

Offering:

\$11,682.81 (Regular)

\$17,278.29 (Specials)

\$287.00 (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, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35