

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

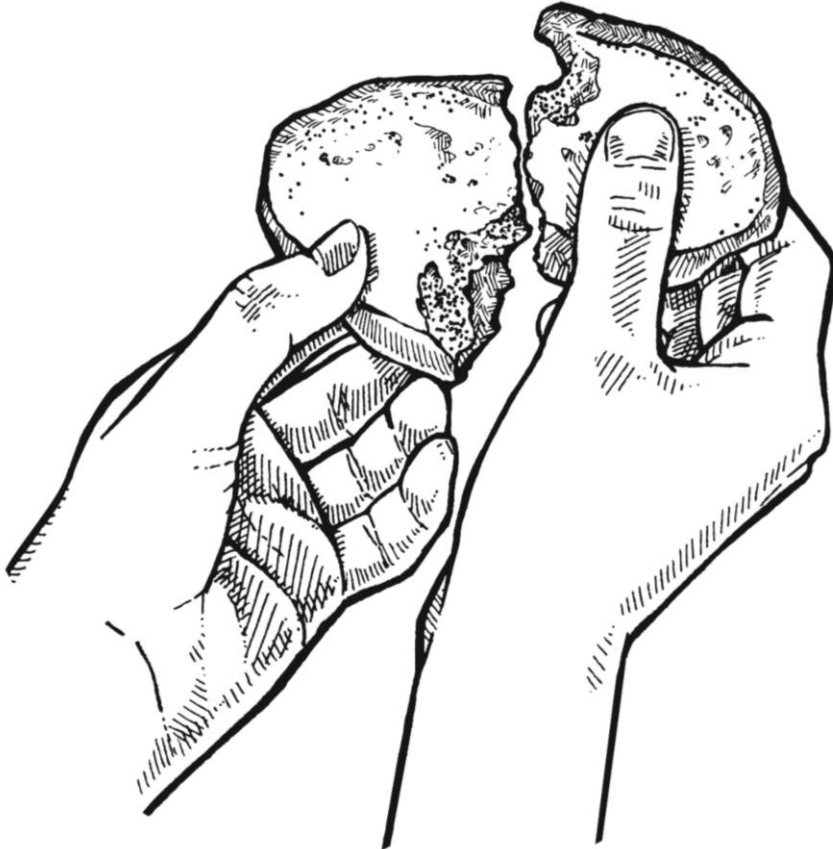
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

April 19, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in EASTER



Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

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 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945
 Text © 2002 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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,

☑ **your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 502

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

☪ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

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



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

¹ I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,

² **for the Lord has given | ear to me**
whenev- | er I called.

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name | of the Lord:**
“O Lord, I pray you, | save my life.” Refrain



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

¹² How shall I re- | pay the Lord
for all the good things God has | done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the Lord.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord
in the presence of | all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your | sight, O Lord,
is the death | of your servants.**

¹⁶ O Lord, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the Lord. Refrain**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord
in the presence of | all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of | the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah! Refrain**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C 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. Luke.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 488

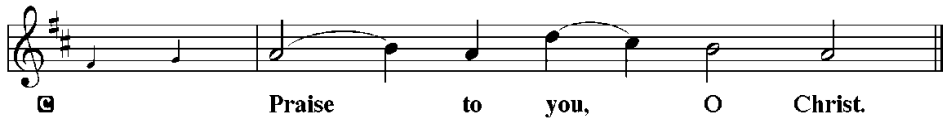
The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

Now on that same day two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were

saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

☒ The Gospel of our Lord



(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children’s Choir with Barb Carlsen. Children in grades K-4 who are not wanting to participate in Choir, may join Kristin Boe for a children’s sermon in the Upper rooms. All children will return to the sanctuary in time to receive communion. There are Children’s Bibles and activity bags, in the back of the entrance hall, available to those who prefer to stay with their families. Once the service is over, please place the used activity bags in the baskets provided, so they can be sanitized and replenished for next week.

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day of Arising

ELW 374

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Day of arising,
Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him,
as fades the first day,
and bread is broken, Christ is made known.</p> <p>2 When we are walking,
doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us,
ever awaiting
our invitation: Stay, do not part.</p> | <p>3 Lo, I am with you,
Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
when the church gathers,
when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.</p> <p>4 Christ, our companion,
hope for the journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision,
set all hearts burning
that all creation with you may rise.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. 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)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Wynn Durio (April 11, 2026)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Ronald Strazdas (father of Donald Strazdas)

Prayers this week: Charles Cole, Candace Edris, Noelle Phelps

On-going Care: John Bodnar, Don Burton, Betty Callies, Kathy Cole, Irving Collett, Warren Cooke, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Kathy Englert, Wanda Frykberg, Tracey Gehringer-Steffen, Marvel Green, Janice Hansen, 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: *Seminarians* – 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, Christians, Join to Sing

Text by Christian H Batemen
arr. by Carl F Mueller

(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

☐ 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 musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a single line for each staff, with lyrics centered under the notes. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' on the first staff; 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' on the second staff; 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' on the third staff; and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' on the fourth staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

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 musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a single line for each staff, with lyrics centered under the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,' on the first staff; 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' on the second staff; 'Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes' on the third staff; and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.' on the fourth staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

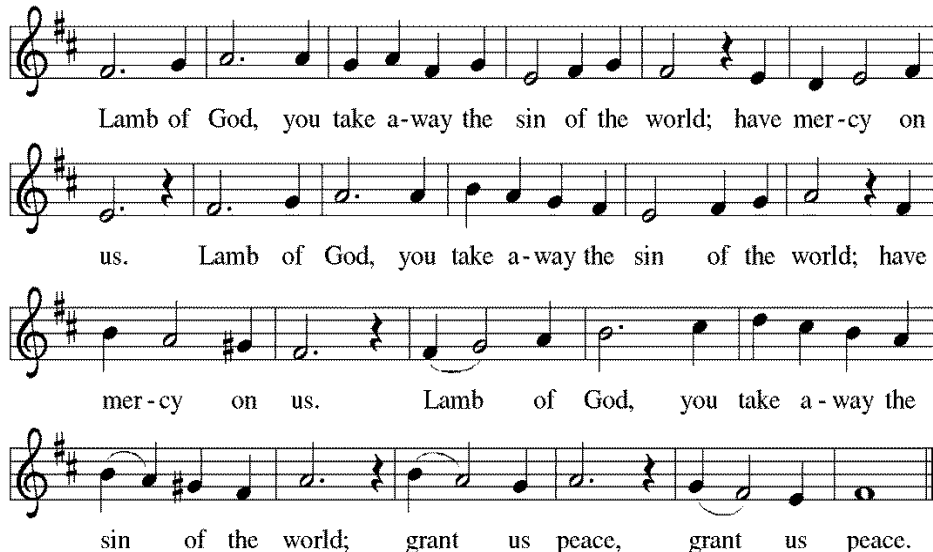
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓐ 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

- L** Come receive the risen Lord.
- C** **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. If you cannot or choose not to receive the wine, know that the sacrament and God's promised forgiveness are complete in either element.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.</p> | <p>2 We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.</p> |
| <p>3 We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.</p> | |

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Text © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- 1 **As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**
- 2 **Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**
- 3 **Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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(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

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

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

ELW 548

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia;
God, the wonder of our days.</p> <p>2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Christ, our present, past, and goal.</p> | <p>3 Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Spirit, grace by whom we live.</p> <p>4 Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Rise, O church, a living faith.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
- ☛ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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KOUNTZE STAFF

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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

April 18 & 19, 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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Myrna Esluer in honor of the 60th class reunion from Immanuel Hospital School of Nursing.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God given by Debbie Robinson in memory of her mother, Pat Neuman, for her 90th birthday.

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-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.

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 breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

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

April 26: Reception for New Member and Graduates

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

New Member Class Continues

April 19

10:15 AM

We're Invited!

Magdalene Omaha 10th Birthday Party

ICC Bowlatorium

2701 S 25th 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 with any questions.

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

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



Magdalene RSVP



Donate

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 19 Sunday

Easter 3

Cinco de Mayo Ticket Presale

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

April 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

April 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

April 22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation

April 23 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

April 24 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

April 26 Sunday

Easter 4

Cinco de Mayo Ticket Presale

Quilt Blessing & Recognition of

Graduates

Receive New Members

Confirmation Year-End Adventure

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Class

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

(93rd & Dodge)

Grades 7 & 8

Wednesdays, 6 - 7:15 PM

Brake for Breakfast is Coming to Omaha!

Event by Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Branching Out - Omaha Home for Boys

4343 N 52nd St

Friday, April 24

7 to 9 AM

Drive through for free breakfast, cancer screening and prevention resources, and complimentary giveaways, while supplies last. Brake for Breakfast is a free, drive-thru event led by the Nebraska Medicine/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center in partnership with UNL Extension, bringing

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

cancer education to communities across Nebraska. Rise and shine for your healthy future!

Omaha's Do Good Days National Volunteer Week April 19 - 25

KCCOC Tours

Friday, April 24, 5 - 7 PM

Saturday, April 25, 9 AM - 12 PM

Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center is going to participate in National Volunteer Week for the first time! To get the word out to our congregation and city, the KCCOC Board will be providing tours of Kountze Commons to anyone interested. If you have never been to Kountze Commons or want to see first hand update on all of the great work being done there, join us!

Funeral Notice

Marie Kubat

All Saints Episcopal Chapel (not the Nave)

9302 Blondo

Saturday, May 2

1 PM

Marie's husband, Jack, wanted to be sure we had information on Marie's funeral. He sincerely hopes that Marie's friends will attend. Pr. Ashley Hall will preach.

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. You can purchase your tickets early from Sheila Valquier and save \$5 each or buy tickets at the door.

Ticket Prices:

Adults (14+): \$20 or \$25 at the door

Kids (6-13): \$5 or \$10 at the door

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



Growing Justice

learning, connection, and community at Glacial Till in Ashland. Join the Nebraska Synod's Social Justice Ministry Teams to explore how we and our congregation can love our neighbor more deeply—in our 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 soap, toothpaste, and cereal. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission. We are always in need of grocery bags.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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 9—Wednesday, April 15

Saturday: 43

Sunday: 9:00: 116 11:00: 68

Wednesday: 12:15: 7

Total: 234

Streaming: 57

Pantry Guests Served: 390 (inc. 174 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$20,297.01 (Regular)

\$3,390.78 (Specials)

\$792.00 (Debt Reduction)

Our eyes have been opened to see the Lord.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	The first converts
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-23	A call to holy living
Wednesday	Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus heals a centurion servant
Thursday	Matthew 9:2-7	Jesus heals a paralytic
Friday	Matthew 14:13-21	Feeding the five thousand
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd



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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

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. Luke 24:30-31 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, may your word and the community of faith open our eyes and our hearts to your living presence within us and among us through the Risen Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened to you through the breaking of bread, open our eyes now with thankful hearts for this meal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Risen Lord fill you with joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- An eye-opening experience helps us to see something in a different way. What eye-opening experiences have you had?
- When is a time you felt God's presence while singing a hymn or reading the Bible?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:13-35.

We have within us the desire for the divine in our lives. As Christians, we want to see Jesus as Lord. We want to have our hearts burning within us. That may have happened weeks ago on Easter Sunday during worship with all the pageantry, song, and in community gathered together to "break bread" (v. 35). For the disciples on the road to Emmaus, even though they had the risen Lord with them and he was teaching them the Scriptures, it was not until the breaking of the bread that he was revealed to them, and they acknowledged that their hearts had been burning within them. Perhaps the sense of the divine in our lives is best recalled in retrospect. We are not in control of the divine in our lives. God is. The Holy Spirit uses our faith stories, the Bible, and the breaking of bread in community to create the burning in our hearts that we want to recall and talk about again and again. That is what happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Discuss: What faith story can you tell about a time when you felt God's presence in your life?

Pray: **Creator God, give us eyes to see and hearts that burn for the joy of your presence through Christ our Savior and Lord. 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 encourage someone to be aware of God's presence in their life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) was introduced during Lent as a way to experience prayer in our daily lives. Add a little extra movement to your prayers this week and make the shape of each letter as you pray: **(A)** I praise God for..., **(C)** forgive me for..., **(T)** I thank you for..., **(S)** I pray for ..., and finish with amen.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10