

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

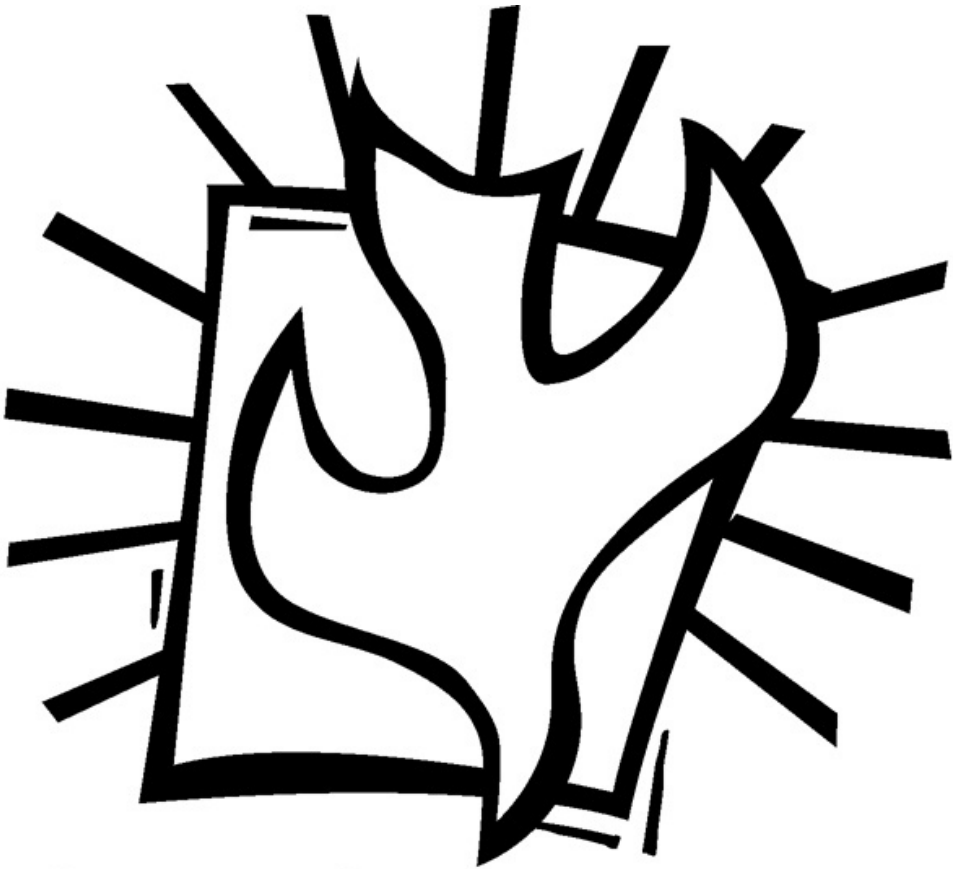
Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor
Eric Haitz, Deacon
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May 3, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in EASTER
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Dirk Lindner, *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 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
 2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
 3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks,
 learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
 car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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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

℣ Almighty God,

☩ **your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

℣ Word of God, Word of Life.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.

² **Incline your | ear to me;**
make haste to de- | liver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
for you are my tow- | er of strength. Refrain

⁵ Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are | in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.” *Refrain*

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸ and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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.

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

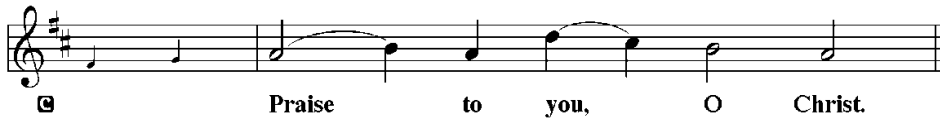
Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 448

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

📖 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

You Are the Way

ELW 758

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee; all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.</p> <p>2 You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart; you only can inform the mind and purify the heart.</p> | <p>3 You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your conqu'ring arm; and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.</p> <p>4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.

Confirmands please come forward during the final verse of the hymn

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 9:00 AM

11 am Service continues with Nicene Creed on page 11

L Merciful God,

C we thank you for these, our siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

L I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

L Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

L Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

L Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

L Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

L Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

L Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

- Ⓛ You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

- Ⓛ People of God, do you promise to support these siblings in faith and pray for them in their life in Christ?

Ⓛ **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

- Ⓛ We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

(sit)

- Ⓛ Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Response from confirmand: Amen.

(rise in body or spirit)

- Ⓛ Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

Ⓒ **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

9 am Service continues with the Prayers of the Church on page 12

NICENE CREED (11:00 AM)

**☒ 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 Russ Flock (co-worker of Ron Brown & Ken Johnson)

Prayers this week: Judi Boe, Candace Edris, Kate McCoy, Jeff Perkins, Noelle Phelps, Myrt Weible

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, 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

Greet the Dawning

words by Brian Jeffrey Leech
music by Jan Sanborn

(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 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 written below the notes. The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. 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 written below the notes. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. 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.'

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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. 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

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.</p> | <p>2 We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.,
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.</p> |
| <p>3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water-washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!</p> | |

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin, The Copyright Company; arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.</p> <p>2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.</p> | <p>4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.</p> <p>5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

(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 MINSTERS

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

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389 vs. 1, 4, 5

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | |

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

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Dirk Lindner, *organ*



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David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

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www.kmlchurch.org

May 2 & 3, 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 and the Eternal Candle are given to the glory of God in honor of Daylan Fleming's Confirmation given by his parents, grandparents, and Godparents

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God in honor of Grace Dey's Confirmation by her grandparents, James & Margit Kegel

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

No Sunday School this Sunday morning, but join us again next week 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.

May 3: Reception for Confirmands
May 10: Tanzania and Nebraska Synod Together, with Martin Russell

Confirmation Worship Notes

You will notice a yellow sheet tucked in your bulletin today entitled "Confirmation Worship Notes." Our confirmation students fill these out throughout the year. Join them today—in fun and solidarity! Fill it out and return in the bins in the back with your bulletin.

KMLC Book Group The Bookworm Sunday, May 3 1:30 PM

The Book Group does not meet in May in recognition of Mother's Day.

We'll meet for lunch and book selection at The Bookworm for the next year. The next book discussion will be June 14 when we begin a new reading list. Please join us then.

We Need Sunday School Teachers!

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

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



SS Teachers

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 3 Sunday

Easter 5
Homebound Communion
Recognition of Confirmands
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM No Sunday School—
Reception for Confirmands

May 4 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry
5 PM Global Mission

May 5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

May 6 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
2:30 PM Confirmation Planning
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

May 7 Thursday

9:00 AM East Cluster Meeting
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

May 8 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 9 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 10 Sunday

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

Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 14

7 PM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 North 18th Street

We are excited to again partner with Trinity Episcopal for a special Ascension Day service and choral collaboration. Our choirs will sing together for the service. We hope you can join us!

Camp CJH Work Day

Saturday, May 16

8 AM - 1:30 PM

Breakfast Served at 7:30 AM

Camp Carol Joy Holling needs our help to "set the vibe" at camp for the more than 1,600 campers arriving during the

summer. Bring your friends and family for a day of work in God's creation! Individuals and groups are welcome and all skill levels are needed. Please bring clothes that can get dirty, close-toed shoes, and gloves. Hats, sunscreen, and water bottles are recommended. Kids are welcome with parental supervision.

For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.nlom.org/nlom-events/work-day-2026/>

Neighborhood Gathering

Sunday, May 17, 2026

11:00 AM- 1:30 PM

Rain or Shine

Green Space (between Methodist Clinic & Kountze Memorial)

All KMLC children, youth, families, friends, and members,



CJH Work Day

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

as well as those in the community, are invited to attend the annual Neighborhood Gathering. Bring the family for FREE food, games, bounce houses, face painting, prizes, balloons, and featuring a live band "Ron and the Renegades"! See the bulletin insert if you would like to volunteer to help. You can also talk to Jim Smejkal. Come join in the fun! You won't want to miss it!

Community Resource Fair

Monday, May 18

9 AM- 12:30 PM

Kountze Commons is excited to host its first Community Resource Fair. Numerous community partners will be present to share information about the services they provide. This event is open to all and is sponsored by our partner, Methodist Health Systems. A complete list of vendors and services is available in the church office upon request. Please join us on May 18th!

Men's Lunch

Thursday, May 21

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

This month, we'll travel back to 1904 and see what two foods gained popularity at the World's Fair in St. Louis. We'll have food, fun, some trivia and a multiple-choice game to test your knowledge. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 19. Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let us know you're planning to attend.



jim@kmlchurch.org

Service Fridays

June 19 - July 31

9 AM - 4 PM

Grades 7 - 9

Service Fridays are a chance for Middle School Students to spend time in fellowship while giving back to the community. Each Friday, students that are going into grades 7, 8, and 9, are invited to Kountze from to work together in partnership with ministries connected to Kountze and other local non-profits. We will be working with deFreese Manor, the Kountze Love Your Neighbor Pantry, YES House, Physicians Mutual, and many other charities focused on helping those in our neighborhood. While Service Fridays are limited to those going into 7th-9th grades, we do need some adult support. If you have time, we could use some adult support during our activities. In addition, we will be focusing on collecting hygiene supplies to make care bags. Soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, lotion, Q-tips, and any other basic necessities you can imagine is needed. These items can be dropped off at the Sunday School office. If you have questions about Service Fridays, or would like to volunteer your time, please contact Kristin at Kristin@kmlchurch.org. Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link:



Service Fridays

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

Confirmation "Boot Camp"

Do you have a student who wasn't able to participate in Wednesday night Collaborative Confirmation classes? Do you want a Confirmation "refresher" course? We are looking to do a Confirmation "Boot Camp" this summer for students (and adults) who for whatever reason didn't get the traditional Confirmation experience or would like a little more. Please contact Pastor Lucy if you would be interested in participating and we will look for a good time and format.

Halloween Costume Collection

Are you cleaning out closets, the attic or your garage? Do you have years of Halloween costumes tucked away that do not fit anyone in your house? Please bring those gently used costumes to the church! All sizes welcome from infant to adult. Donations can be placed in the brown collection box under the coat rack on the west side of Fellowship Hall. This fall, Kountze Commons will host an event where those in need can come select a costume of their choice. If you have questions on donations or would like to assist in the event in the fall, please reach out to Toby Rees (402-979-1425 or toby@kmlchurch.org).

Kountze Food Pantry

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



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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

Attendance & Giving Thursday, April 23—Wednesday, April 29

Saturday: 19

Sunday: 9:00: 146 11:00: 44

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 219

Streaming: 41

Pantry Guests Served: 367 (inc. 167 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 12

Offering: Not available at time of printing

We are precious in God's sight.



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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

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	A chosen people
Wednesday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Thursday	Hebrews 11:29-40	The faith of heroes
Friday	Lamentations 3:19-24	God's steadfast love endures
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you send us out to witness to Jesus Christ; give us confidence and courage to be your faithful witnesses. Fill us with mercy and love through Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food strengthen the body and your word strengthen our calling to be your loving and faithful witnesses in the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the steadfast love of Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you were honored for something you did?
- What are words that you would use to describe God's people?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Peter 2:2-10.

1 Peter helps us to imagine the meaning of Christ's resurrection for our lives. Jesus is the living stone rejected by people yet "*precious in God's sight*" (v. 4). As followers of Jesus, we are living stones built into a sacred community, "*a holy priesthood*" (v. 5). The imagery in this reading is expanded to explore its spiritual depth. We are "*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people*" (v. 9). This rich language and imagery all lead us to understand the treasured life we have. We are called to speak of God in Jesus Christ, the one who has brought us out of darkness and into a precious and holy light. Once we were those who had not received mercy, those who were not God's people. Now we are God's people and live lives filled with mercy and honor to be God's chosen people. Jesus' resurrection changed our lives from desperation to empowerment and joy. It is no wonder that we are to be like babes, thirsting for spiritual milk so we may grow into a life that is our inheritance and delight.

Discuss: How does being one of God's chosen people affect how you live your life?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, remind us again and again of our holy calling as your chosen people sent out to others with words of mercy and hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show mercy to someone who is feeling lonely or in pain?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "*a living stone*" and Jesus' followers "*like living stones*" to be "*built into a spiritual house.*" Gather some smooth stones. Draw a cross on a large stone and write the names of family and friends on the smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the one with the cross on it in a visible place in your home. Think or talk about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. Take a moment to look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21