

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

May 17, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY in EASTER



In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (11:00 AM)

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. Melva W. Costen

(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 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

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Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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 of glory,
- ☑ **your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 498

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

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



Sing to God, who rides up - on the clouds.

¹ Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;**
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;**
I Am is that name, rejoice | before God! Refrain

⁵ In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;**
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.

⁷ O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,

⁸ the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.

⁹ You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their | home in it;**
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. Refrain

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;**
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.

³⁴ Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,**
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God! Refrain

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

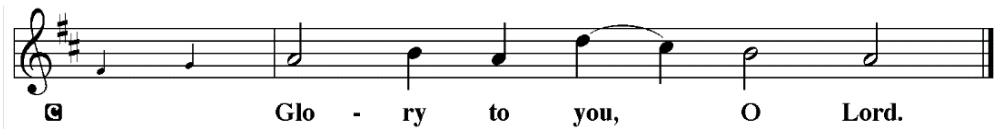


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.



GOSPEL

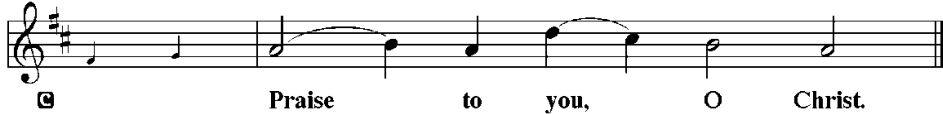
John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

☐ The Gospel of our Lord



(sit)

CHILDREN’S CHOIR (9:00 AM)

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. Melva W. Costen

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.</p> | <p>2 To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.</p> |
| <p>3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.</p> | |

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

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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,
 G 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 Margaret Nelson (cousin of Tom Jensen)

Prayers this week: Lydia Baum (granddaughter of Lynn & Nancy Meyer), Tracey Gerhringer-Steffen, Kate McCoy, Lynn Meyer

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Charles Cole, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Janice Hansen, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Elizabeth Luczynski, Ralph Morse, Jeff Perkins, Noelle Phelps, Allyson White

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.
G 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

I Come with Joy

by Brian A. Wren
arr. Zebulon M. Highben

(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

Text © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. 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.', and '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 musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. 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.'

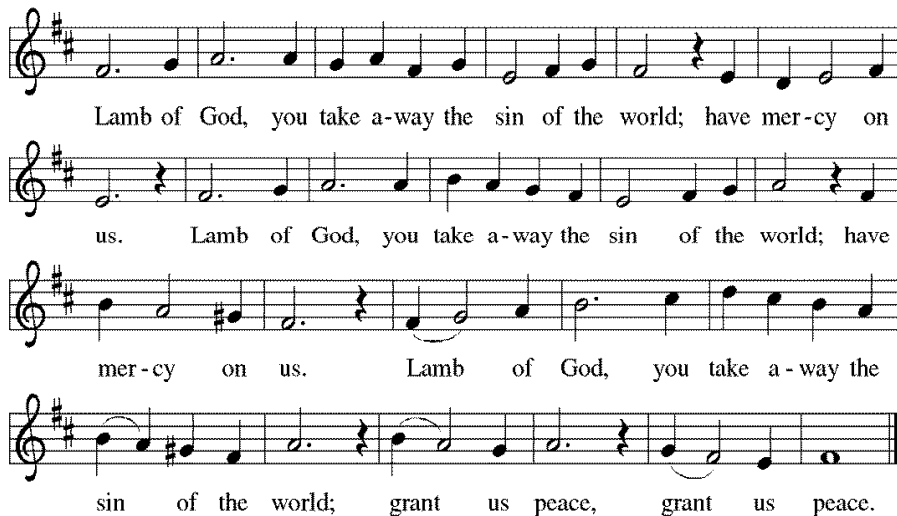
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓐ 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

- 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

Thine the Amen

ELW 826

- 1** Thine the amen thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head
thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story
thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup
is lifted up lifted up.
- 2** Thine the life eternally
thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.
- 3** Thine the truly thine the yes
thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee
thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing
then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving
evermore evermore.
- 4** Thine the kingdom thine the prize
thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story
then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.
- 5** Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree
then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness
only thee only thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Text © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- 1 **Lord, who the night you were betrayed did pray
that all your church might be forever one:
help us at ev'ry eucharist to say
with willing heart and soul, "Your will be done."
Oh, may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**
- 2 **For all your church on earth, we intercede;
Lord, make our sad divisions soon to cease;
draw us all closer, each to each, we plead,
by drawing all to you, O Prince of peace;
thus may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**
- 3 **And hear our prayer for wand'ers from your fold;
restore them, too, Good Shepherd of the sheep,
back to the faith your saints confessed of old,
and to the church still pledged that faith to keep.
Soon may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**
- 4 **So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
may we be one with all your church above—
one with your saints in one unbroken peace,
one with your saints in one unbounded love;
more blessed still, in peace and love to be
one with the Trinity in unity.**

Text: William H. Turton, 1856-1938, alt.

(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

- ℒ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☩ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

Rise, O Sun of Righteousness

ELW 657 vs. 1-3, 5

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Rise, O Sun of righteousness;
with your might creation bless.
Shine upon your church today,
showing all your gentle way.
Have mercy, Lord.</p> <p>2 Rouse our hearts from slumber deep;
may your word within us leap.
Give us voices to proclaim
praises to your holy name.
Have mercy, Lord.</p> | <p>3 Gather in your scattered flock;
give us water from the rock.
Bless the unity we share
in our shepherd's loving care.
Have mercy, Lord.</p> <p>5 Honor, praise, and glory be
to the holy Trinity!
May your gracious will be done:
make us one, as you are one.
Have mercy, Lord.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ℒ Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
- ☩ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



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
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Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 16 & 17, 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 in celebration of Bob & Pam Johnson's wedding anniversary; in celebration of John & Lynn Schneiderman's 38th wedding anniversary

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Amanda Plantz in memory of David Penning

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon

8:35 AM Practice

Grades K-6

Our Children's Choir will sing this morning for both the 9 and the 11 AM services. Please arrive at 8:35 AM to practice in the Nave. We will sing right at the beginning of the 11 AM service, so your family will be able to leave immediately after they sing. This will be our last time singing for this school year. Thank you for allowing your child to be involved in our choir.

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Beginning this Sunday and through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labeledz.

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Today is the last day of Sunday School. Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School rooms for a celebration of all the hard work you all put into this Sunday School year.

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 17 Neighborhood Gathering

May 24: Fellowship (Memorial Day Weekend)

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, 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"! Come join in the fun! You won't want to miss it!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

May 17 Sunday

Easter 7

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

8:35 AM Children's 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 Café - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour—
last day of Sunday School

11:00 AM Neighborhood Gathering

May 18 Monday

9:00 AM Free Community Resource
Fair

10:00 AM Pantry

4:30 PM Personnel Committee

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

May 19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM KCCOC Board

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

May 20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

May 21 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

May 22 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

May 23 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

May 24 Sunday

Day of Pentecost

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Adult Forum

May 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

Memorial Day (Observed)

OFFICE CLOSED

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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



jim@kmlchurch.org

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.

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 to work together in partnership with ministries connected to Kountze and other local non-profits. We will be working with deFreeze Manor, the Kountze Love Your Neighbor Pantry, YES House, Physicians Mutual, and many other charities focused on helping those in our neighborhood. While

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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/3sjzfpmk>

Bikes Needed for Refugee Family

Are you doing a little spring cleaning in the garage? Our refugee family is looking for two used children's bikes with training wheels for their 4- and 6-year-olds. If you have a bike or two your children or grandchildren have outgrown and would like to donate, please contact the church office. Thank you for helping us share a little joy this spring!

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 canned pasta, body wash, and bottled water. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are

available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission. We are always in need of grocery bags.

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

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



Pantry

Serve Boldy Trinity Lutheran Church 6340 N 30th St

**July 12-17, July 19-24, and July 26-31
Sun 12-7 PM, MTW, 3-8 PM, with 2-3 hours on Fri. AM**

Serve Boldy is seeking a Food Service Coordinator for Serve Boldly during their 3 weeks in Omaha - it's an hourly position - about 20-25 hours a week at \$20 an hour. They are also looking for a Guide in Omaha for the first two weeks listed. If you are interested or know someone that might be interested in cooking for large groups, or are teachers or alumni of camp who might have experience serving youth groups, please contact Sara Jonasen, sjonasen@gllm.org. Even if you can only work a couple of those times, they would still be interested in hearing from you. Use the link below or the QR code for a copy of the job description.

<https://tinyurl.com/2kjrse63>



Serve Boldly



More info next week...

**Family Swim Party
Saturday, June 13
Westgate Pool—8233 Grover Street
9 AM - Noon**

Kountze Young Adults Bonfire Night

**Saturday, June 13
KMLC Green Space
College Age—30's
8:00 PM**

Attendance & Giving	
Thursday, May 14—Wednesday, May 20	
Saturday:	27
Sunday: 9:00:	200 11:00: 54
Wednesday:	12:15: 11
Total:	292
Streaming:	51
Pantry Guests Served:	229 (inc. 108 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served:	11
Offering:	
	\$20,330.97 (Regular) \$508.50 (Specials)
	\$534.65 (Debt Reduction)

Eternity is living now with God and with one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:6-14	Ascension of Jesus
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Paul's encouraging words
Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	God's protection
Friday	Ephesians 4:7-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **John 17:3 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, give us the Spirit of Christ that we may know you and live with you today and with one another in love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of orphans and protector of widows, as we enjoy this meal, we pray for food for all people. Amen. (Psalm 68:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of grace strengthen you.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- If you could spend a day doing anything you want to do, what would it be?
- How is God's love different than a friend's love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 17:1-11.

Being with God in eternity seems to be something we anticipate after we die, but not in the Gospel of John. Eternity is understood as a life that begins now and is experienced through faith in *"the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent"* (v. 3). Jesus speaks of his glory. The hour of his glory is his suffering, death, and resurrection. We participate in Jesus' glory as those who remain in the world now protected by God. Eternal life is experienced as a life of glory that knows suffering and also knows God in Christ. A personal relationship with Jesus is not private. We live in eternity now as the body of Christ in the world together. Therefore, Jesus prays that all of his followers *"may be one, as we are one,"* (v. 11) that is, as Jesus and the Father are one. Eternal life involves a relationship to God that knows, trusts, and believes in Jesus as the one who is with the Father. One may ask, "How do you think you will experience eternity after you have died?" John's question would be, "How do you experience eternity now, living with God and with one another in a world that God loves?"

Discuss: What difference does it make for you to know that eternity is now, and not just after you die?

Pray: **Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of faith that we may experience your presence in our lives through the body of Christ. 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 someone who is experiencing challenges in their life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven as a cloud took him out of sight. Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Make a dessert in a glass alternating blue gelatin with whipped cream to symbolize the sky, clouds, and Jesus' ascension. While eating the dessert, think or talk about ways you have been or can be a witness for Jesus. After you finish, say the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23