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 24, 2026 **9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

DAY of PENTECOST

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

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.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O Holy Spirit, Enter In* **ELW 786**

1 O Holy Spirit, enter in,
and in our hearts your work begin,
and make our hearts your dwelling.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
around and in us brightly shine,
your strength in us upwelling.
In your radiance life from heaven
now is given overflowing,
gift of gifts beyond all knowing.

2 Left to ourselves, we surely stray;
oh, lead us on the narrow way,
with wisest counsel guide us;
and give us steadfastness, that we
may follow you forever free,
no matter who derides us.
Gently heal those hearts now broken;
give some token you are near us,
whom we trust to light and cheer us.

3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
let your good Word in doubt and strife
be in us strongly burning,
that we be faithful unto death
and live in love and holy faith,
from you true wisdom learning.
Lord, your mercy on us shower;
by your power Christ confessing,
we will cherish all your blessing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L O God,

C **on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING **Acts 2:1-21**

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

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

**Verses 9-11 in our translation substitute contemporary place names for those listed in Acts*

When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. [2] And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. [3] Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. [4] All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

[5] Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. [6] And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. [7] Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? [8] And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? *[9]We are from Afghanistan and Turkmenistan; Iran, Iraq and Kuwait; Israel, Palestine and many parts of Turkey, [10]including Istanbul and Ankara; from Egypt and northern Libya; and visitors from Rone, both Jews and proselytes; [11]from the island of Crete and Saudi Arabia —in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." [12] All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" [13] But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

[14] But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. [15] Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. [16] No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

[17] 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

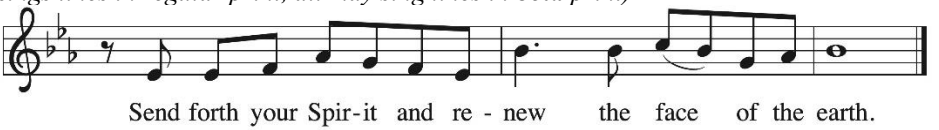
[18] Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. [19] And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

[20] The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. [21] Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

L Word of God, Word of Life. C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

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



24 How manifold are your | works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.
25 **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number,**
living things both | small and great.
26 There go the ships | to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.
27 **All of them | look to you**
to give them their food | in due season. *Refrain*

28 You give it to them; they | gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.
29 **When you hide your face, | they are terrified;**
when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.
30 You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;
and so you renew the face | of the earth.
31 **May the glory of the Lord en- | dure forever;**
O Lord, rejoice in | all your works. *Refrain*

32 You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.
33 **I will sing to the Lord as long | as I live;**
I will praise my God while I | have my being.
34 May these words of | mine please God.
I will rejoice | in the Lord.
35b **Bless the Lord, | O my soul.**
Hal- | lelujah! *Refrain*

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 542

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

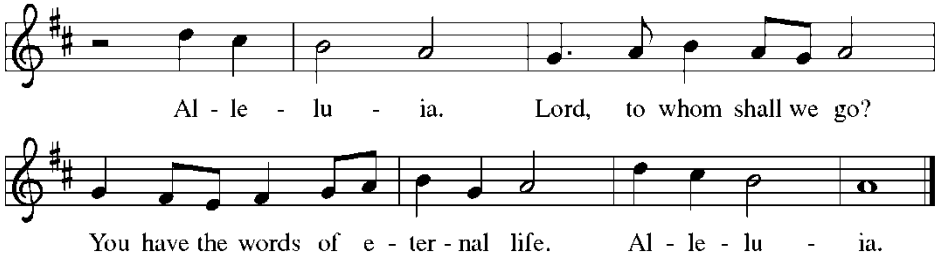
No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, 5 and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the

interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. [12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

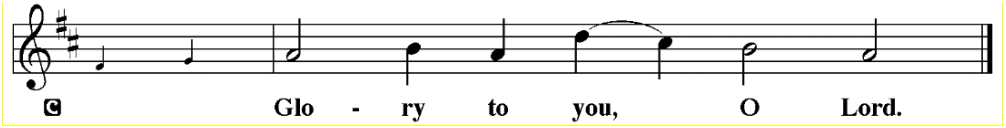
℣ Word of God, Word of Life. ℟ **Thanks be to God.**

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



℣ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.



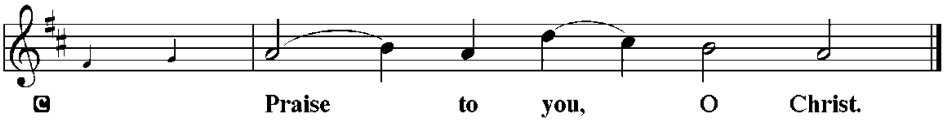
GOSPEL **John 20:19-23**

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 492

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." [20] After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." [22] When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. [23] If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

℣ 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, they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON *Deacon Haitz*

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Wind Song* **ACS 943**

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020
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NICENE CREED

C 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 Jim Poffenbarger (husband of Judith Poffenbarger)

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Charles Cole, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Tracey Gerhringer-Steffen, Janice Hansen, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Elizabeth Luczynski, Kate McCoy, 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.
C **And also with you.**

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

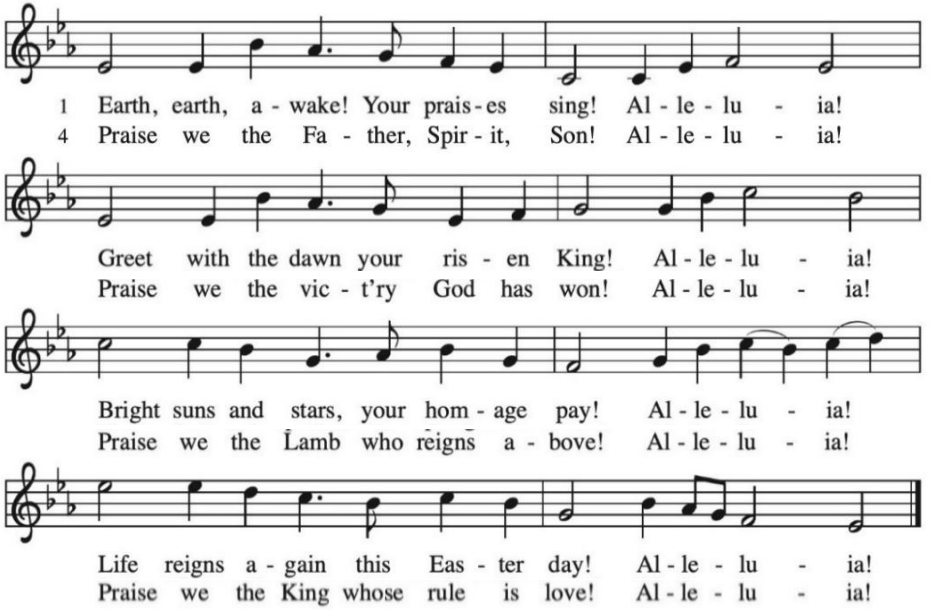
We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your 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 *Many Gifts, One Spirit* by Alan Pote

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN *Earth, Earth, Awake!* **ACS 937 vs. 1 & 4**



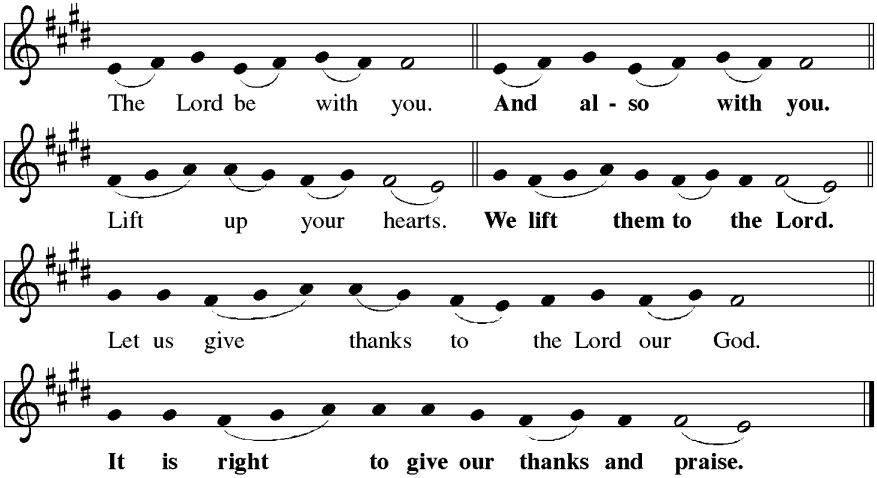
Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Text © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

OFFERING PRAYER

L Merciful God,

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

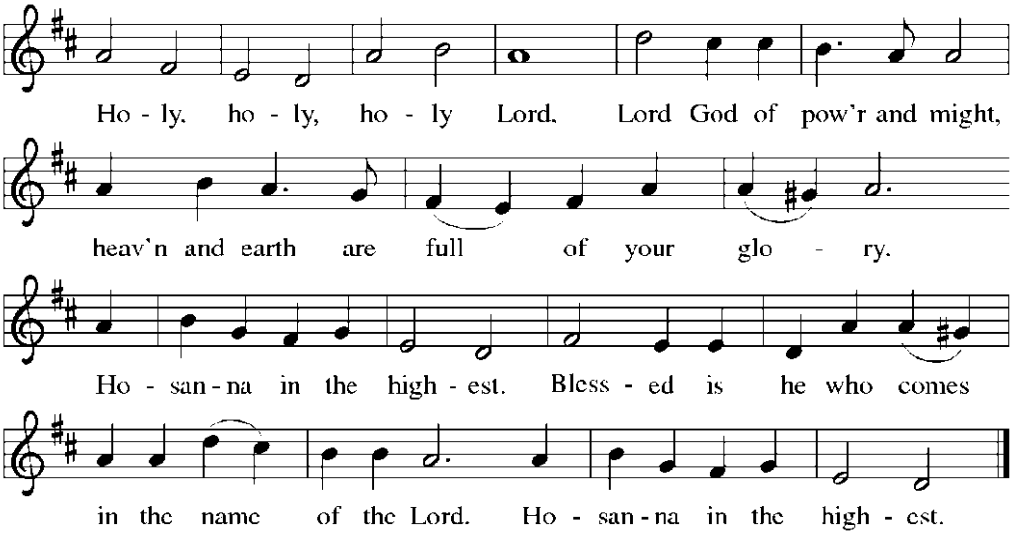
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE FOR EASTER

℣ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, …
… we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC 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.

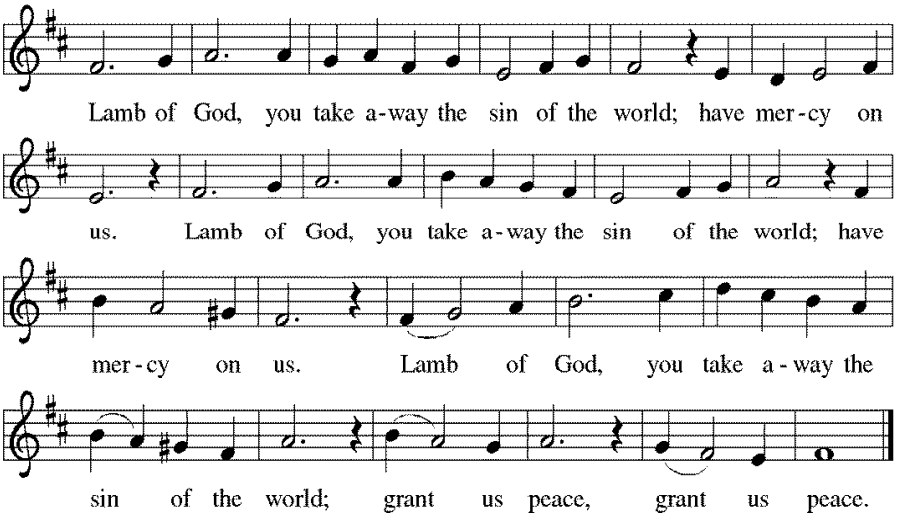
℟ **Amen, amen, amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **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



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 *United at the Table* **ELW 498**

Refrain

United at the table:
all our joy is joined in song.
United in the faith:
all our joy to God belongs.

1 We will praise God, we will sing
alleluias with hymns and with psalmody;
we will praise God for the love
that sustains us eternally. *Refrain*

2 We will praise God, we will feast
at the bountiful table of life and grace;
we will praise God and give thanks
for communion with ev'ry race. *Refrain*

3 We will praise God, we will play
alleluias with rhythm and instruments;
we will praise God for the love
that invites all creation to dance. *Refrain*

Text: Joaquín Madurga; tr. Angel Mattos, b. 1947, and Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Text © 1979, 1998 J. Madurga and San Pablo Internacional - SSP, admin. OCP Publications, sole U.S. agent. All rights reserved.

Loving Spirit **ELW 397 vs. 1, 2, 3, 5**

1 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

2 Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

3 Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

5 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be—
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Text © 1987 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(rise in body or spirit)

THE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Holy One,

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

SENDING

BLESSING

L Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* **ELW 579 vs. 1, 2, 5**

1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:

Refrain
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community: *Refrain*

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity: *Refrain*

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
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DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

POSTLUDE Mark Jones, *organ*

✢ ✢ ✢

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KOUNTZE STAFF

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

KOUNTZE Memorial Lutheran Church

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

May 23 & 24, 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Will Gardnier and Arnold Steffen given by Thomas & Tracey Gehringer-Steffen

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 Labedz.

Adult Forum
Sundays, 10:10 AM
Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.
May 24: Fellowship (Memorial Day Weekend)
May 31: TBD

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

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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 Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum—Fellowship

May 25 Monday
Memorial Day (Observed)
OFFICE CLOSED

May 26 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3

May 27 Wednesday
12:15 PM Worship

May 28 Thursday
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
1:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

May 29 Friday
Synod Assembly May 29-31
5:00 PM Pantry

May 30 Saturday
5:00 PM Worship

May 31 Sunday
Holy Trinity
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

2026 Nebraska Synod Assembly
May 29 - May 31
Kearney, NE
The theme of the 2026 Synod Assembly is Broken Open. Attendees will explore "Broken Open," where scars become sacred and vulnerabilities, sources of strength. Our members attending the Assembly will be challenged, encouraged, and broken open to the surprising grace of God at work in them, in our congregation, and across the Nebraska Synod. Thy will be giving a report of their experiences sometime during Adult Forum in the next few weeks.

KMLC Week at Camp Carol Joy Holling
June 7- 12/week 2
Twenty eight of our young people will be attending camp at Carol Joy Holling this summer. Be sure to ask them about their time at camp. They'll have a lot to report!

Carol Joy Holling 38th Annual Quilt Auction
Saturday, July 25
Just a reminder that the funds raised from the CJH Quilt Auction helps to provide a great camp experience for the more than 1,600 campers that will be arriving this summer. While the auction isn't until July, quilts may be delivered to the camp anytime between now and July 15. If you're not able to donate a quilt, plan to attend the auction and bid on one or two… or six. Quilts in the past have gone for anywhere between $25 and $20,000. There's something for every budget, and it's a very good cause. For more information or a donation form, go to:
https://www.nlom.org/quilt-auction/

Family Swim Party
Saturday, June 13
9 AM - Noon
Westgate Pool
8233 Grover Street
All ages youth preschool to high school and their families are invited for a "Summer Has Begun Pool Party". A lifeguard will be on site for our private event and drinks and food will be available. Hope to see you there! Contact Sheila if you have any questions.

Kountze Young Adults Bonfire Night
Saturday, June 13
8:00 PM
Join us for a cozy evening around the fire with good food, games, and great conversation! Bring your friends and come enjoy cornhole, giant Jenga, a hot dog bar, and the magic of a crackling bonfire in the Green Space at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Whether you're new to Kountze or have been around awhile, this is a relaxed chance to connect and unwind together. College age through 30's welcome!

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 deFreese Manor, the Kountze Love Thy

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

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 volunteers 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:

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 cereal, cereal, cereal! They really need 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/uausdddp

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

"Gray Area Thinking" with Ellie Krug
Messiah Lutheran Church
5015 S. 80th Street
Tuesday, June 2
6— 8 PM
Free and Open to All

What does the phrase "diversity and inclusion" actually mean? How can we move beyond grouping and labeling of other humans to make an organization-- or even our personal lives—more diverse and inclusive? Can we really build a just and inclusive world, especially in this time of such division? We have been invited to join national speaker, transgender writer and "human inclusionist" Ellen "Ellie" Krug as she discusses organizational culture and culture change and conducts her human inclusivity training, Gray Area Thinking®. This training provides an easy-to-understand toolset on how to be more welcoming of anyone who is "Other" in our society.

Attendance & Giving
Thursday, May 14—Wednesday, May 20

Saturday: 17
Sunday: **9:00**: 134 **11:00**: 81
Wednesday: 12:15: 9
Total: 241
Streaming: 50
Pantry Guests Served: 240 (inc. 119 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 18
Offering:
$10,508.28 (Regular) $662.79 (Specials)
$202.00 (Debt Reduction)

The Holy Spirit moves us to act with forgiveness.

taking faith home

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing helpful deeds
Thursday	Ephesians 4:25–5:2	Rules for the new life
Friday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." **John 20:21-22 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, through the Holy Spirit you send us into the world to speak, forgive, and give peace in the name of Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit, help us to bless the world with your love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for giving food to all you have created; open your hand and fill us with good things. Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you peace.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- How does forgiving someone breathe new life into a relationship?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit is at work in the world today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-23.

Those first disciples were fearful and huddled in a locked room. We all have had experiences of being frozen in fear and wanting to hide. Jesus knows this. Just as he did with those first disciples, Jesus enters our anxious lives, sends us out of our locked rooms, and releases us from our fearful confinements. The crucified and risen Jesus enters our lives with the power of the Holy Spirit. He sends out his followers of all generations to conquer those destructive forces with a peace that dares to forgive. On Pentecost we are reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit that breathes Jesus' life-giving and life-freeing forgiveness into the world. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus sends out disciples like us into the world with peace. That peace is not simply a good feeling filled with the absence of struggles. Jesus' peace is a life-giving power to conquer our fears and timidity that we may courageously extend a word of divine forgiveness to others.

Discuss: How has the Holy Spirit moved you to act with the power of peace and forgiveness for others?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, breathe on us your holy breath that we may go forth into the world to share your peace and the power of forgiveness. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, to whom can you offer a word of forgiveness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we recite the Apostle's Creed, we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church…". With the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the holy catholic church with a small "c" (meaning the whole Christian church on earth), we are reminded of the gifts of faith we are given through the Spirit. We celebrate this day as the day the church received the Holy Spirit. Read or recite the Apostle's Creed and talk about what it means to you.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20