

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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May 31, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY



The Milky Way

Do you have to be able to explain something in order to know it? What do knowledge, trust, faith, commitment, celebration all have to do with each other? What do these have to do with the way we live our daily lives?

The Festival of the Holy Trinity challenges us to do some explaining. Doing that, we realize our explanations are not sufficient to help others have a relationship (full knowledge) with God, a relationship of trust and commitment. The best way is to look at the faith experience described by Christ-followers back in scripture, as well as throughout history, around us today, and maybe even in our own lives. Then we can celebrate the God who comes to us as Creator, Redeemer, and life-giving Spirit.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C Amen.

L Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Compassionate God,

C we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

L Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C Amen.

**1 Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim,
all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.**

**2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"**

**3 Lo, the apostolic train
join your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun
through the church the song goes on.**

**4 Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God we claim you
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.**

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900

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



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ God of heaven and earth,
- ☑ **before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 2

We read this sweeping poem about Creation believing the Bible wants us to know the Who? Then we are given the ability and freedom to attempt to figure out the how. In order to know what value there is in the world of nature and who we humans really are, we must know who the Creator is. Verse 26 gives us a couple of challenges. How do humans show God's likeness? And, why does "Let there... change" to "Let us?" Some suggest this plural points to the triune nature of God. The us may also indicate the Holy Trinity gives us the task to continue creative care for all of creation.

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

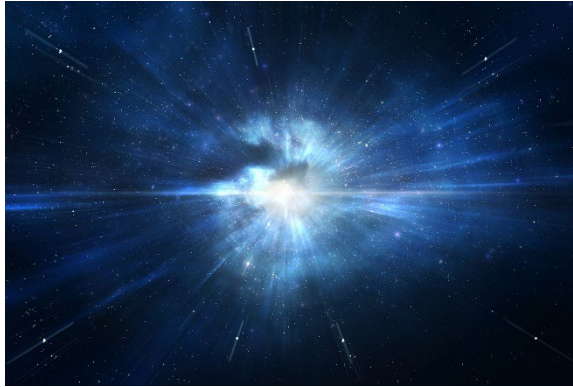
²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is

upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.



The Big Bang

Psalm 8 (read responsively)

As in Genesis 1, we read another ancient poem about God's creation, inviting us to offer praise. We might wonder: How is it that God establishes a defense (fortress or bulwark), silencing the arguments of opponents through the words of infants and children? See Luke 18:15-17.

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 158

¹ O Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

² **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴ **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵ Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶ **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

⁷ all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸ **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹ O Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Corinth was a cosmopolitan seaport. Early Christ-followers came from many and different ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds. Holding the Church together was a great challenge that the Apostle Paul knew was beyond his control. He concludes his difficult correspondence knowing it is only the multi-faceted gifts of grace, love, communion that can bring dissimilar, even antagonistic individuals together. In these words, which we use early in our worship services, we see an early formulation of what we call the Holy Trinity.

Paul writes: ¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

☒ Alleluia!

**C Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 496

The first Gospel concludes with Jesus, after Easter, meeting his disciples on a mountain and giving them a charge. Here we find the only clear listing of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Note that we do not see the word trinity.) The phrase, "end of the age", probably does not mean that everything is all over. Rather, Jesus is most likely pointing to the purpose or goal of all human existence. Questions: How does the story of Creation (Genesis 1) connect with Jesus' claim that he has all authority? How will the story of Creation and Jesus' assertion that he has all authority affect me this week? ... including our view of power in our work and in our political/community life?

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

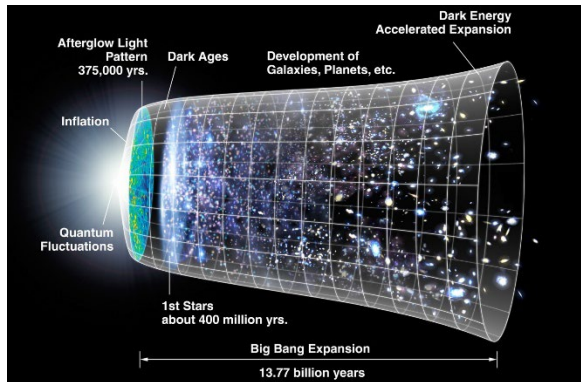
☒ The Gospel of our Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

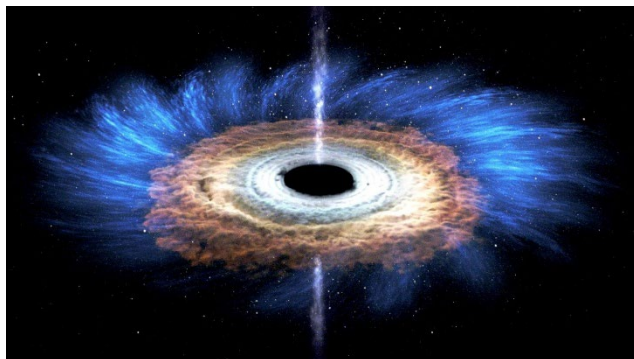
(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 2 years through 4th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags, located in the back of the entrance hall, during the regular sermon or go to the Upper rooms for a story time. All children will return to their families in time to receive communion. 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.



The Big Bang



A Black Hole

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.</p> <p>2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.</p> | <p>3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.</p> <p>4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☒ Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

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.

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. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: ☒ God of grace,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

On-going Care: Judi Boe, Charles Cole, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Tracey Gerhinger-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: *Seminarrians* – Joseph Daffer, James Holzer

THE PEACE IS SHARED

☒ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **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

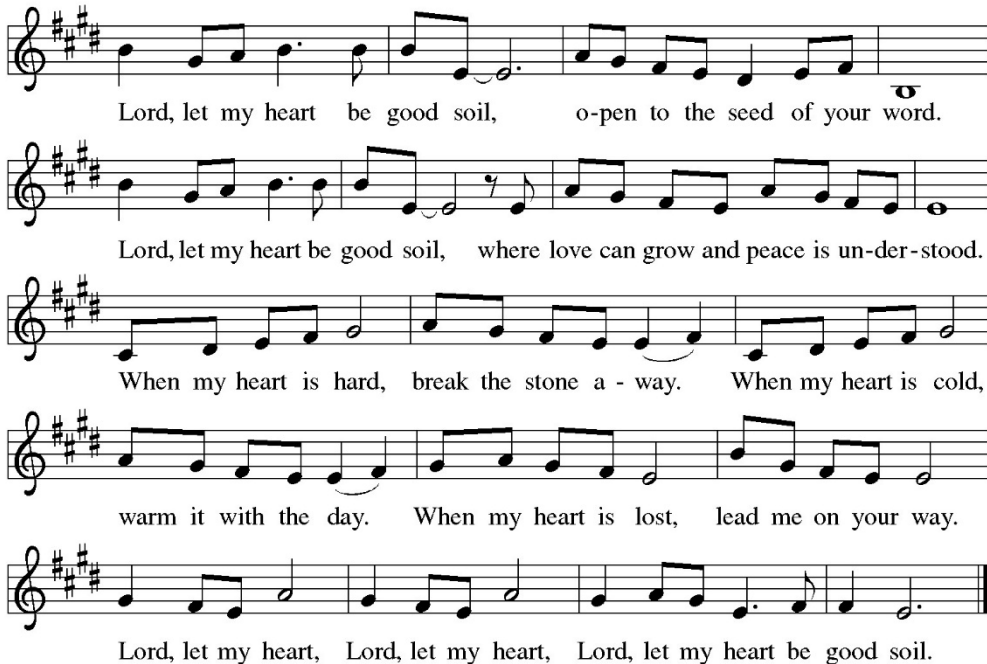
Mark Jones

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

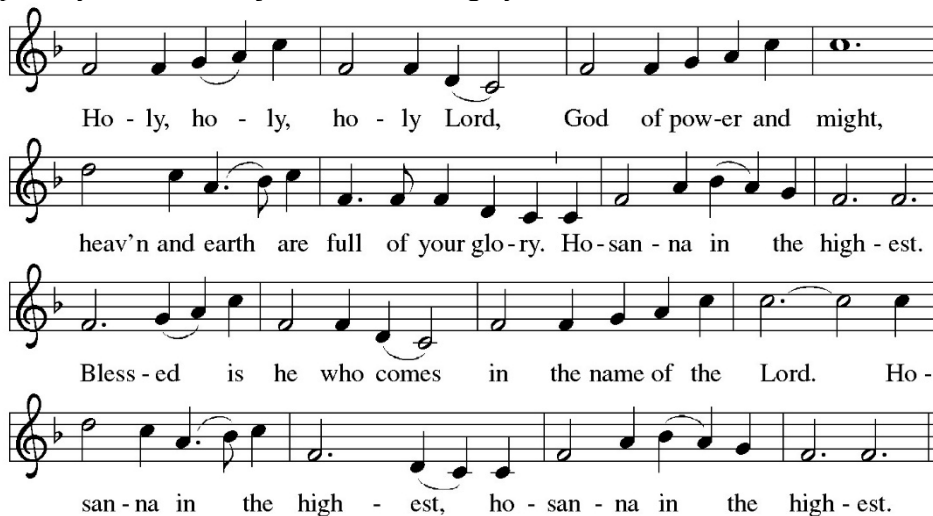
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OFFERING PRAYER

- 📖 Loving God,
- 📖 we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- L** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- L** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, ...
... and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, ...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, ...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, ...
... be all honor and glory, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

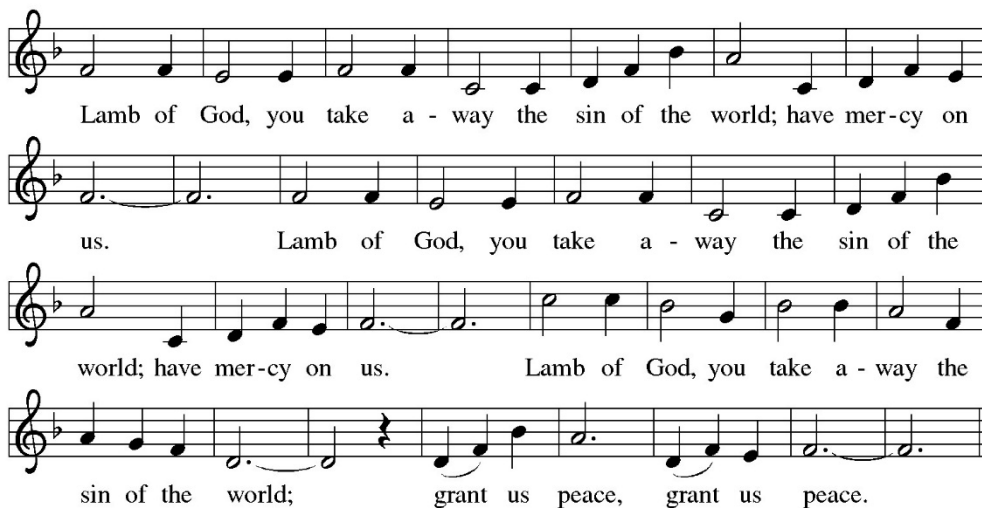
☒ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

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

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

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

AGNUS DEI



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☒ Come, share in the feast!

☑ **Heaven has come near.**

(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.*

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960
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Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.</p> | <p>2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.</p> |
| <p>3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!</p> | |

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

(rise in body or spirit)

THE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Compassionate God,
- ☑ **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☩ Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
- ☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

ELW 883

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.</p> <p>2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.</p> | <p>3 Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.</p> <p>4 For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.</p> <p>5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

DISMISSAL

- ☩ Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
- ☩ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

† † †



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KOUNTZE STAFF

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Sheila Valquier	Youth Director
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
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Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Dan Collett	Facility Assistant
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 30 & 31, 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

Thank You to Pr. Paul Moessner who is preaching this weekend while Pr. Hall is on sabbatical and Pr. Lucy is attending the Nebraska Synod Assembly.

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Charles Fuglsang

Kountze Café Lite
9:30—11:00 AM
Free-will Offering

Now 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.

Children's Sermon

Children are invited to sit with their families at the beginning of the service. Following the children's sermon, youth who are going into grade four and younger are invited to follow the adult leader upstairs for the Kountze Summer Reading Program. The kids will enjoy a story book on important life lessons. Coloring sheets, fidgets, and sensory items will be provided. They will return to their families for communion.

Are you an adult interested in reading to the youth? Use the following link or QR code to sign up to read. You may also reach out to Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

<https://tinyurl.com/2epndk6z>



Summer Reading

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>



Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall. While Pr. Hall is out of the country on sabbatical, Adult Forum topics for June and July are still being finalized. A report from those who attended Synod Assembly is planned for sometime in

Today at Kountze Memorial, *continued*

June. Until then, we hope you'll still join us on Sunday mornings for breakfast and fellowship. Adult Forum topics will be posted in the Announcement Page and e-news as they become available.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

June 1 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

June 2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

June 3 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

June 4 Thursday

6 PM Wedding Rehearsal
4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

June 5 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry
7:00 PM Peterson & Matteson
Wedding

June 6 Saturday

Homebound Communion
5:00 PM Worship

June 7 Sunday

Pentecost 2
Homebound Communion
Jun 7 - Jun 12 Camp Week @ CJH
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

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 through 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!

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, June 14

The Ride of Her Life, The true story of a woman, her horse, and the last chance journey across America by Elizabeth Letts

In 1954, 63-year-old Annie Wilkes, left her Maine farm to begin a journey on horseback to Los Angeles, California. She was facing poverty, loss of her farm, and a terminal diagnosis with 2-4 years to live. Annie embarked on a 4,000 -mile trip with little money or maps, horse, Tarzan, and dog, Depeche Toi as her companions. Annie was resilient and bold, and defied the elements and courageously met the challenges during the period in America of the building of the Interstate Highway system. She met many people along the way including Groucho Marx, and arrived in California in 1956. The theme of the book is hope, resilience, courage, and power of community.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

Men's Lunch

Thursdays, June 18

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 16,

Call the church office, sign up at the Welcome Desk, or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org to let him 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 deFreese Manor, the Kountze Love Thy 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>

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 soup, beanie weenies, and deodorant. 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/uau5dddp>

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 21—Wednesday, May 27

Saturday: 31

Sunday: 9:00: 108 11:00: 60

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 209

Streaming: 64

Pantry Guests Served: 238 (inc. 68 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15

Offering:

\$7,604.62 (Regular) \$3,144.55 (Specials)

\$367.15 (Debt Reduction)

The Triune God empowers reconciliation with others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples
Monday	Genesis 1:1–2:4a	God creates everything
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Live in peace
Wednesday	Acts 3:11-26	Peter speaks in the temple
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	Ministry of reconciliation
Friday	Ezekiel 18:24-32	The Lord is fair
Saturday	Psalms 8	Wonderful name of the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	The call to follow Jesus



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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. 2 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you that you care for us and want us to live in harmony with others; help us to live in peace with all you have created through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, the works of your hands have placed all things under our feet. Help us to remember and always give thanks for the food we eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it take to strengthen a relationship with friends or family?
- When is a time you have had a sense of God's love and peace?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13.

This reading includes the trinitarian language anticipated for this special day: the grace of Jesus, the love of God as Creator and Father, and the unity of the Holy Spirit. Paul uses this language and understanding of God as being the strength of the Corinthian house churches. Paul's two letters to the Corinthians indicate that these house churches seem to be divided by lots of conflict. At the same time they are closely united because of God. Paul tells the people to "[b]e restored," and "live in peace" (v. 11). God's love and reconciling power make it all possible. The embrace of this family-like community is demonstrated by Paul's urging them to greet each other with a "holy kiss" (v. 12). All of this is expected by Paul, not because of the leadership or wisdom of the people, but because of "[t]he grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit" (v. 13) that is promised to be with them all. For Paul, it is the Triune God who makes the reconciled life of the Christian community possible.

Discuss: How does Paul's description of God help the church seek reconciliation?

Pray: **Triune God, bless us always with your grace, love, and shared fellowship with one another so that we may live in peace and be reconciled with all our brothers and sisters in 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 restore a broken relationship with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is Trinity Sunday. In the word Trinity, "tri" means "three" and "unity" means one. Draw a triangle on a piece of paper. Write Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in each of the corners. Think or talk about what each one means to you. In the center of the triangle draw a heart and write the word love. *Pray:* **Dear God, we praise you for your abundant love. Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us. Please help us to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Hosea 5:15—6:6; Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26