

# 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 7, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

℣ Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

✠ Amen.

℣ Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

℣ Compassionate God,

✠ 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.**

℣ 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.

✠ Amen.

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

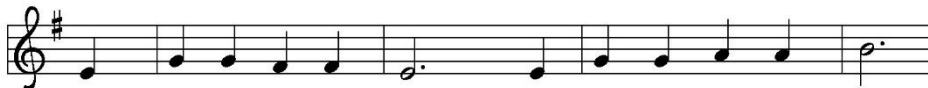
Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

## 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.

## KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ O God,
- ☑ you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# WORD

(sit)

## FIRST READING

**Hosea 5:15—6:6**

*Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.*

**I** will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor:

<sup>6:1</sup> “Come, let us return to the Lord, for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. <sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

<sup>3</sup> Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.” <sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. <sup>6</sup> For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 50:7-15 (read responsively)

<sup>7</sup> “Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you;  
for I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup> **I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;  
your burnt offerings are always before me.**

<sup>9</sup> I will not accept a calf from your stalls,  
nor goats from your pens;

<sup>10</sup> **for all the wild animals of the forest are mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup> I know every bird of the mountains,  
and the creatures of the fields are mine.

<sup>12</sup> **If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

<sup>13</sup> Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls,  
or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup> **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and make good your vows to the Most High.**

<sup>15</sup> Call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4:13-25**

*Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.*

**T**he promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(rise in body or spirit)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**L** Alleluia!

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

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

*Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 258*

*Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.*

**A**s Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup> for she was saying to

herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.”<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment.<sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,<sup>24</sup> he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.<sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.<sup>26</sup> And the report of this spread through all of that district.

📖 The Gospel of our Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

### **CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)**

*Children (aged 2 years through 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### **SERMON**

*Pastor Wynard*

(rise in body or spirit)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

**ELW 470**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Draw us in the Spirit's tether,<br/>for when humbly in your name<br/>two or three are met together,<br/>you are in the midst of them.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Touch we now your garment's hem.</b></p> | <p><b>2 As disciples used to gather<br/>in the name of Christ to sup,<br/>then with thanks to God the giver<br/>break the bread and bless the cup,<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>so now bind our friendship up.</b></p> |
| <p><b>3 All our meals and all our living<br/>make as sacraments of you,<br/>that by caring, helping, giving,<br/>we may be disciples true.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>We will serve with faith anew.</b></p>      |   |

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.  
Text from Songs of Praise Enlarged Edition © Oxford University Press 1931.

## 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)*

**Thanksgiving:** for the wedding of Chris & Krya Mattson (6/5/2026)

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Shirley Dietrich & Alice Pickinpaugh

**Prayers this week:** Karen Jacobson, Paulette Logan (friend of Phyllis Gibson)

**On-going Care:** Judi Boe, Charles Cole, Warren Cooke, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, 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

- 📖 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

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

setting by Tom Trenney

written by Robert Robinson, alt. Martin Madan

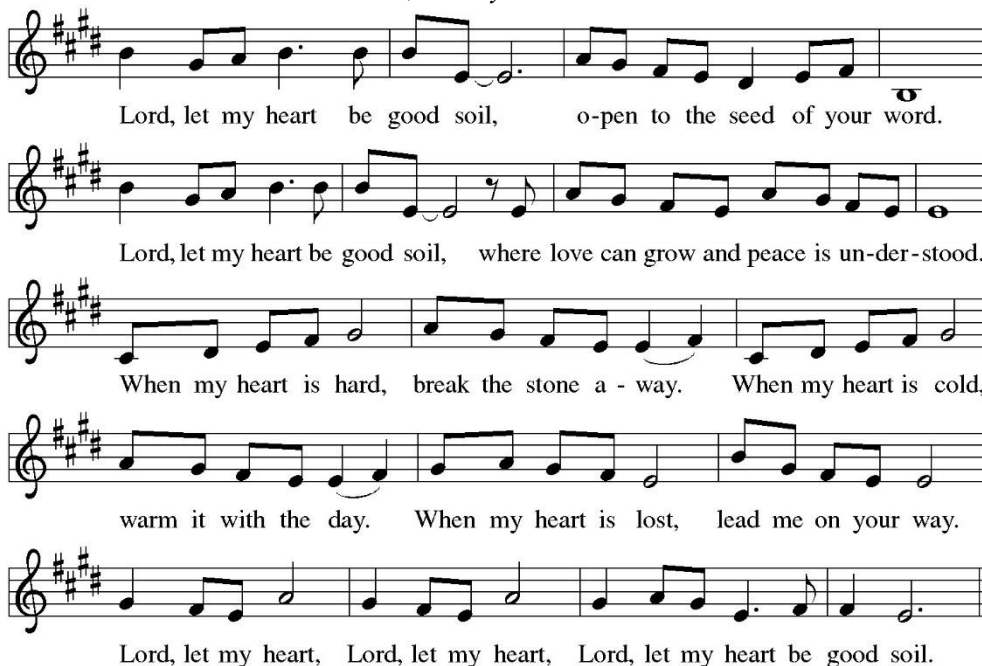
Janet Campbell, *vocalist*

*(rise in body or spirit)*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Lord, Let My Hart 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.

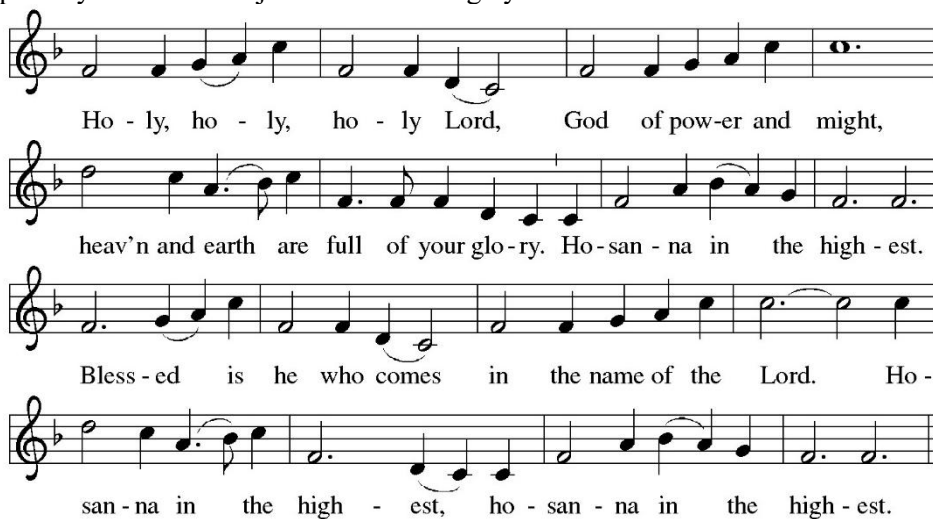
Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950  
Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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

- Ⓐ The Lord be with you.
- Ⓢ **And also 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.**
- Ⓐ 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

- Ⓐ 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.

- Ⓢ **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

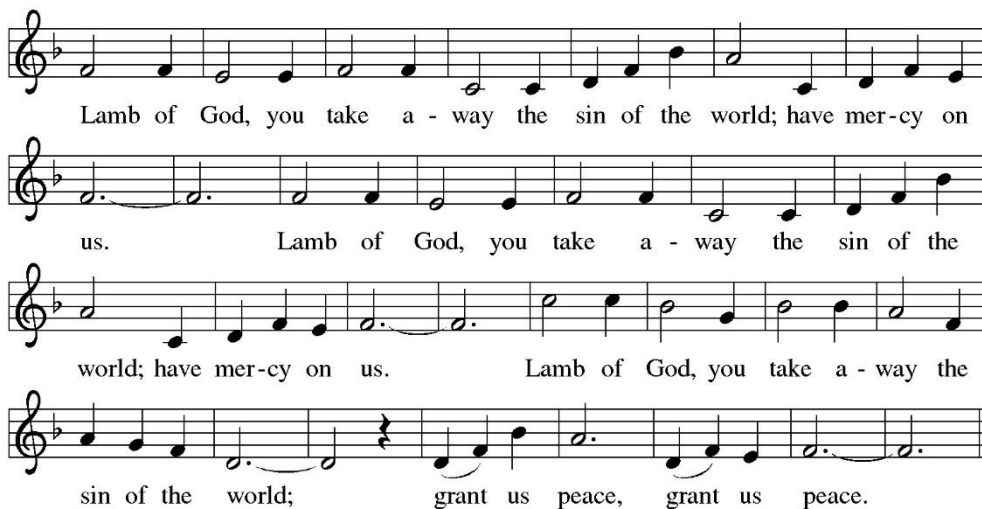
☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☑ **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 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Text: African American spiritual

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

ELW 588

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.
- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.
- 3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful;  
let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

*(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

## DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### BLESSING

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

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW 836

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

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*



From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. All Creations Sings ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, an imprint of 1517 Media. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828.

## 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  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 6 & 7, 2026

*Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 165 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.*

### Today at Kountze Memorial

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Kyra Peterson & Chris Mattson in celebration of their marriage

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

Now through Labor Day weekend, we are 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org).

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



Summer Reading

### Adult Forum

**Sundays, 10:10 AM**

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. A report from those who attended Synod Assembly is planned for sometime in 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.

### 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*

### 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!

---

### This Week at Kountze Memorial

#### 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

#### June 8 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

#### June 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

#### June 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group  
12:15 PM Worship  
3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese Manor  
4:00 PM Executive Committee

#### June 11 Thursday

Council Reports Due  
9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Clinic

#### June 12 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

#### June 13 Saturday

9 AM – 12 PM Family Swim Party  
5:00 PM Worship  
8:00 PM Young Adult Bonfire

#### June 14 Sunday

Pentecost 3  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:30 AM Kountze Café  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
12:15 PM Book Group

---

### For Your Calendar/News & Notes

#### Kountze Memorial Youth Ministry Parent Survey

Parents/guardians, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts regarding our Youth Ministry Program. This survey is anonymous and will help us plan youth activities and Sunday Youth Forum for next year. Please do not include your name or your youth's name unless you would like someone to follow up with you. The survey can be found by using the QR code or the following link.



Parent Survey

<https://tinyurl.com/yhmp3jsf>

#### 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.

#### 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](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to let him know you're planning to attend.

## For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

### 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 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org). Sign up your middle school student with QR code or the following link:



Service Fridays

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

### 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](mailto:toby@kmlchurch.org)).

### Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. You may leave your donation in the box marked "Food Pantry," located in the Fellowship Hall. Tax deductible slips are available on the inside pocket of the box. Please join us as a volunteer in the pantry in the Kountze Commons volunteer as it fits your schedule. We have options for volunteers of all abilities. Please use the QR code or the following link to sign up and join our mission. We are always in need of grocery bags.



Pantry

<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

### School Supply Drive

The youth will be hosting a school supply drive this summer. We are asking for supplies and backpacks to fill for our Love thy Neighbor Pantry in Kountze Commons. Notebooks, folders, crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens, glue, scissors, etc. are welcome. Please bring items to church by August 2. We will be stuffing backpacks on August 9.

### Carol Joy Holling 38<sup>th</sup> 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, use the QR code or go to:



CJH Quilt Auction

<https://www.nlom.org/quilt-auction/>

### Attendance & Giving Thursday, May 28—Wednesday, June 2

**Saturday: 24**

**Sunday: 9:00: 102 11:00: 46**

**Wednesday: 12:15: 7**

**Total: 179**

**Streaming: 75**

**Pantry Guests Served: 408 (inc. 120 children)**

**Medical Clinic Guests Served: 15**

**Offering:**

\$19,507.26 (Regular)                      \$1,504.26 (Specials)

\$182.00 (Debt Reduction)

*Trust in the promise and power of God's grace.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	The call to follow Jesus
Monday	Hosea 5:15-6:6	A call to repentance
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise realized by faith
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5:28-33	Moses mediates God's will
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Request for prayer
Friday	Ephesians 5:28-33	Let love be your guide
Saturday	Psalms 50:7-15	What pleases God
Sunday	Matthew 9:35-10:23	The sending of the twelve



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.  
In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[A]s it is written, "I have made you [Abraham] the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.*

**Romans 4:17 (NRSV)**

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us faith and courage to follow you and to touch the lives of those around us with your grace, mercy, and healing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the one who gives us hope now and always. Amen.

##### A Blessing to Give:

May you have trust in God.

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What happens in a relationship when someone makes a promise and doesn't keep it?
- Abraham grew strong in his faith because of God's promise. How does trusting God's promises help you grow in faith?

#### DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 4:13-25.

Some Christians in Rome believed one first had to become Jewish by following God's law before one could be a follower of Jesus. However, Abraham, our father in the faith, did not have the law and circumcision that was required to become Jewish. That came later through Moses. What Abraham had was trust in the promise of God, the God who "gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (v. 17). We, too, "share the faith of

Abraham" (v. 16). We trust in the promise of God and the power of God's grace that resurrects life through Jesus. Abraham's and Sarah's bodies were old and unable to give birth to a child and, therefore, to a new nation. But it happened, not because of Abraham's or Sarah's ability to birth a child but because of the God who makes promises and keeps them. We are inheritors of Abraham's right relationship with God through faith that trusts the God who "raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" (v. 24).

Discuss: God makes promises and keeps them. How does knowing this help you grow in your faith?

**Pray: Creator God, we thank you for giving us new life in Christ through faith, a gift of your never-failing love and grace. Amen.**

#### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how does following Jesus help you to reach out to someone in need?

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus saw Matthew and said to him, "Follow me" (Matthew 9:9). And Matthew got up and followed him. One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is by wearing a cross necklace. Some have a cross or a fish symbol tattoo somewhere in a visible place on their body. Think or talk about a time you or someone you know was recognized as a follower of Jesus. Write a list of words that describe a follower of Jesus. Take a moment to read the words aloud.

Then pray: Dear Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow. May we do so with love and mercy toward others in our daily lives. Amen.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]