

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

October 4, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

NINETEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
☞ **Amen.**

- ☞ Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- ☞ Compassionate God,
☞ **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

- ☞ Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
☞ **Amen.**

1 Sing to the Lord of harvest
your songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices
your alleluias raise;
by him the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyous song of love.

2 God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with his fullness,
all things with large increase
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.

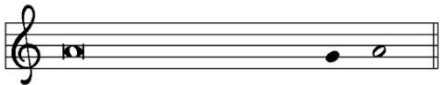
3 Bring to this sacred altar
the gifts his goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☞ Beloved God,
- ☞ from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

☞ Word of God, Word of Life.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:7-15 (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)



Look down from heav'n, O God; be - hold and tend this vine.

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁸ You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.

⁹ You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

¹⁰ The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. *Refrain*

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.

¹² Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

¹⁴ Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;

¹⁵ behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

Paul writes: ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

👤 Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 302

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

Jesus said: ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

📖 The Gospel of the 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.

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

ELW 729 vs. 1-3

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.</p> | <p>2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.</p> |
| <p>3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.</p> | |

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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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: **L** Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

Prayers this week: Darlene Anderson, Judith Hamaker

On-going Care: Bruce Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Nakoma Baker, Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Ellie Carlson, Warren Cooke, Jinette Cswercko, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob & Sandy Fonda, Janice & Len Hansen, Linda Hoagland, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Kate McCoy, Lynn Meyer, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, Noelle Phelps, Theresa & Shawn Powell, John Rayno, Joel Rosen, Allyson White, Barb Zinn

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; Brayden Renken, son of Lenny & Aundrea Renken; Joel Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenberg 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

United in His Love

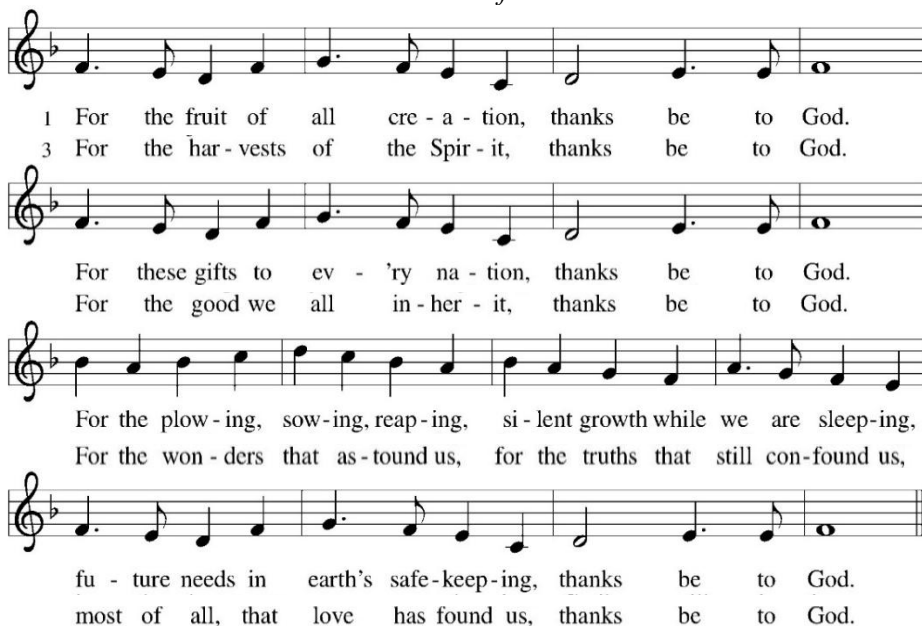
words & music by Cindy Berry

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679 vs. 1 & 3



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

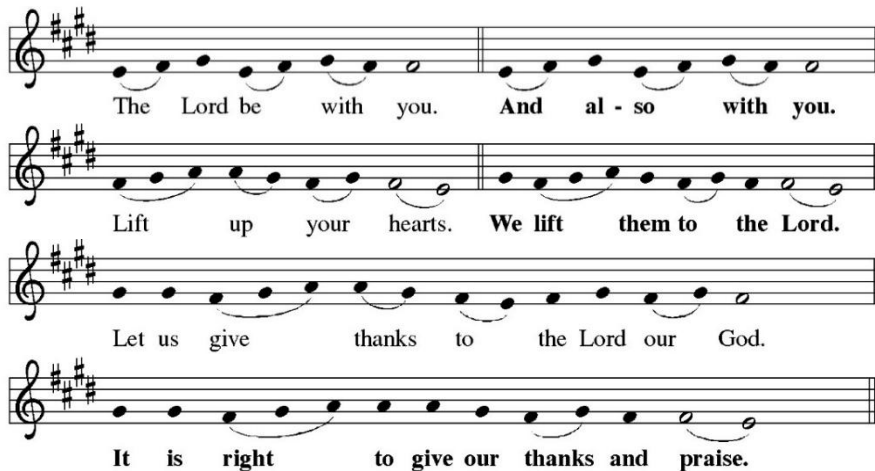
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OFFERING PRAYER

L God of creation,

C you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

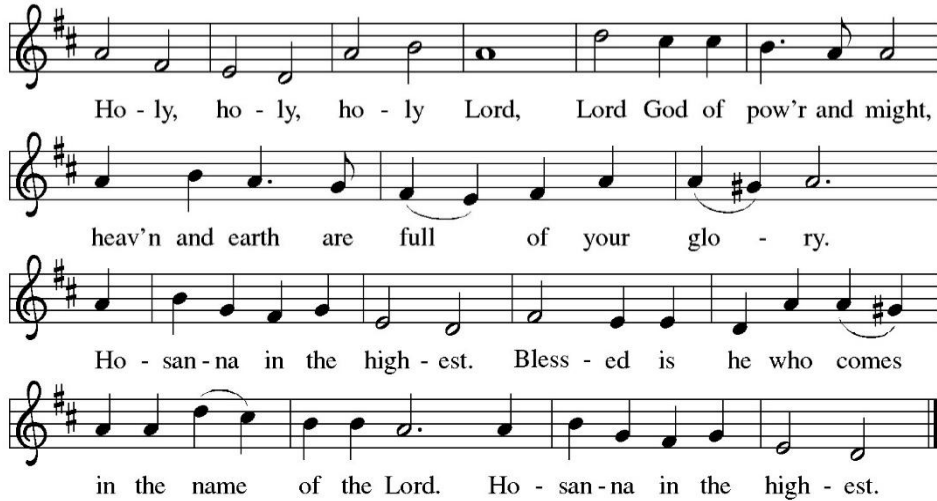
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

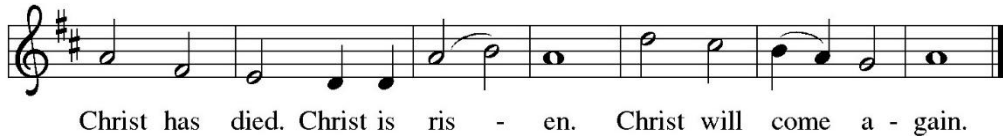
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. ...
... and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, ...
... be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

☑ **Christ invites us to this table.**

(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.*

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

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.

Refrain

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain***
- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain***

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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I Come with Joy

ELW 482

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me. | 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends. |
| 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread. | 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here. |
| 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one. | |

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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*(rise in body or spirit)***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- ☞ Sustaining God,**
- ☞ with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

☞ The God of love draw you into community, in the body of Christ Jesus.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Go to the World

ACS 991



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

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DISMISSAL

☞ Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

☛ Thanks be to God.

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	Exec. Dir. 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
Heidi Pospisil	Pantry Director
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

**2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761**

**Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org
October 3 & 4, 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 Ralph & Jane Ross

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

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Children's Choir & Children's Sermon 9:15 AM

Grades K-6

Children in grades K-6 are invited to join the Children's Choir with Barb Carlsen following the 9 AM Children's Blessing. Children in grades K-4 not wanting to participate in Choir may join Kristin Boe for a children's sermon in the Upper Rooms. All the children will return to their seats in time to receive communion.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

October 4: ELCA Social Statements: What They Are and How They Are Written

October 11: Reception of New Members & ELCA Statement: Faith and Civic Life

Sunday School Leaders Needed

The Faith Formation program is looking for enthusiastic volunteers for the Sunday School students. All lessons are scripted and materials

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*

provided. The children start with breakfast upstairs, providing time for fellowship with the youngest members of Kountze. They then split into their classrooms for a lesson that follows the lectionary of the day. Please contact Kristin at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. You can sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/wwjk3zut>

New Member Classe Continues
Sunday, October 4
10:15 AM

This Week at Kountze Memorial

October 4 Sunday

Pentecost 19
Homebound Communion
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
10:15 AM New Member Class
7:00 PM St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker Service @ Trinity Episcopal

October 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

October 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

October 7 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

October 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

October 9 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 10 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

October 11 Sunday

Pentecost 20
Receive New Members
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-6)
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
11:15 AM First Communion Class
12:15 PM Book Group
3:00 PM Strike out Diabetes Bowling Bash

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker Service

Sunday, October 4

7 PM

Held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th St

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church have, for several years, celebrated St. Francis of Assisi, Peacemaker, with a communion service focused on prayers for peace. We hope this service can be an invigorating moment of prayer and song. Choir members from several churches will participate. The preacher will be Abby Ybay, Dean of Community Life at The Benedictine Way, an Episcopal monastic community in North Omaha. A cookie reception will follow. Join us!

First Communion Class

Sunday, October 11

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

If your child is around second grade, or has been showing signs of curiosity surrounding Communion, they would be ready for this class. A light lunch will be

served. First Communion will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 25. Sign up by emailing Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org or use the sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk if your child/ren will be attending. Contact Kristin if you have questions.

KMLC Book Group

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

Sunday, October 11

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman (the #1 book in the Thursday Murder Club series)
The Thursday Murder Club is the first in a five book murder series by British author Richard Osman. It is a clever, laugh-out loud, suspenseful novel set in a retirement residence village in England. Four, septuagenarian residents are members of the Thursday Murder Club who meet weekly to review old unsolved police crimes. Readers find this series of murder mysteries very entertaining and a tribute to the older population. Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

2026 Strike out Diabetes Bowling Bash

Maplewood Lanes

3030 N 101st St, Omaha

Sunday, October 11

3 to 5 PM (check in at 2:15)

Just a reminder if you registered, to bring 4 canned goods, a bag of flour, or Maseca and you will get a ticket for the raffle drawing.

Men's Lunch - Octoberfest!

Thursday, October 15

11:30 AM

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

Join us for another great time of food, fun, and friendship. Jim always keeps us guessing with his menus—whether it's brats, sauerkraut, or something completely unexpected, it's sure to be delicious! Please sign up by Tuesday, October 13 by calling the church office or emailing jim@kmlchurch.org. You can also sign up at the Welcome Desk. Bring a friend. Lederhosen not required.

Trunk-or-Treat

Saturday, October 17

5 - 7 PM

Kountze Commons is hosting its first community Trunk-or-Treat event which will take place in our parking lot and include trunks, games, and family fun. You can help with the event by decorating the trunk of your vehicle for children to visit, or by donating decorations, game prizes, candy, or your time. If you are interested please reach out to Toby at toby@kountzecommons.org or 402-979-1425. Join us for this fun event!

Haunted House

Friday, October 23

Youth Grades 7 - 12

Bellevue Berry Farm

11001 South 48th Street Papillion

6 - 9 PM

Are you ready for a FALL-TASTIC event? Come join us for a Haunted House and Hayrack Ride experience! We will meet at the main building at the Berry Farm. Email Sheila Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to RSVP.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 25

October 25, Reformation Sunday, is also Bible Sunday for our youth. This is a well loved tradition where the youth of Kountze Memorial receive an age-appropriate Bible thanks to the generous support from donations for Bibles. Children aged 2 and 4, plus those in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 receive a Bible each year. All

students are invited to lead the choir into church at the start of the 9 AM service to receive a blessing for their Bibles and will then join their parents. There will not be Sunday School this Sunday. The students are encouraged to eat breakfast in the Fellowship Hall with their parents to celebrate First Communion with their peers. Pre-school will be held for the service only.

Kountze Care Companions

Do you have a few hours to share each month? We are forming a team of volunteers to assist some of our older members with simple tasks such as sorting and organizing around the house, light cleaning, carrying or putting away groceries, and spending time in conversation and companionship. No special skills are required—just a willing heart and a desire to serve. Whether you can help occasionally or on a regular basis, we would love to have you join us as we care for one another and live out Christ's call to bear one another's burdens. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at the welcome desk, or contact the church office for more information.
for the raffle drawing.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are ketchup, mustard, and toothpaste. We are always in need of gently used grocery bags. 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 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.



<https://tinyurl.com/uasdddp>

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, Sept. 24—Wednesday, Sept. 30

Saturday: 18

Sunday: 9:00: 141 11:00: 86

Wednesday: 12:15: 10

Total: 255

Streaming: 75

Pantry Guests Served: 705 (inc. 232 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering:

\$9,984.1 (Regular) \$1,276.77 (Specials)

\$467.81 (Debt Reduction)

Faith in Christ gives us confidence.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	2 Peter 3:14-18	Final exhortation
Thursday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul's instructions to Timothy
Friday	John 14:1-7	Jesus the Way to the Father
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel's deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[A]nd be found in him [Christ], not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. **Philippians 3:9 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you. (Psalm 80:7)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

What values and qualities do look for in a friend?

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We really don't appear to get it. We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi. He points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be "*blameless*" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "*loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why bad things happen to good people. Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This theology of the cross sees life in death, sees joy in suffering, and sees hope in despair. Paul presses "*on to make it my own*" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation.

Discuss: How does your faith in Christ free you to experience suffering with hope?

Pray: **Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you be a good friend to someone by caring for their needs?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us. *Pray: **Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."** Amen.*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14**