

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
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www.kmlchurch.org

October 11, 2026

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TWENTIETH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Compassionate God,

C 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.

L 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.

C Amen.



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
 dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

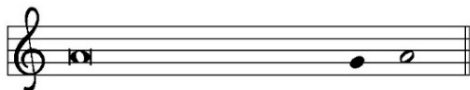
Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

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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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



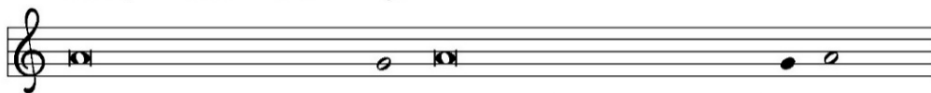
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



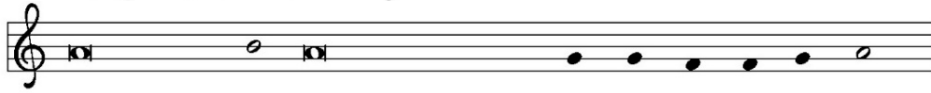
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

📖 Lord of the feast,

📖 **you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

📖 Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

📖 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 (*choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain*)

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 160



- ¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
- ² The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.
- ³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
- ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. *Refrain*
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 304

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C 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.

SERMON

Deacon Haitz

**1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

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

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PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00 AM)

- ☞ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these individuals*, who are already one with us in the body of Christ and whom we now welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Benjamin & Hailey Marchant

THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)

☞ 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: ☞ Hear us, O God.

☞ **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, Susan Clark, Bob & Rita Fleming, Judith Hamaker, Anita Morse

On-going Care: Ryan Anderson, Nakoma Baker, Judi Boe, Carol Carlson, Ellie Carlson, Warren Cooke, Jinette Cswercko, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob & Sandy Fonda, Judith Hamaker, 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, 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

- 📖 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 *Are You Dressed for the Wedding* words & music by Joseph M. Martin & David Angerman

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* ELW 679 vs. 1 & 3



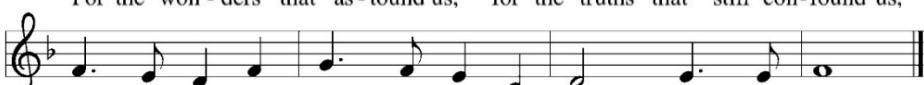
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



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,

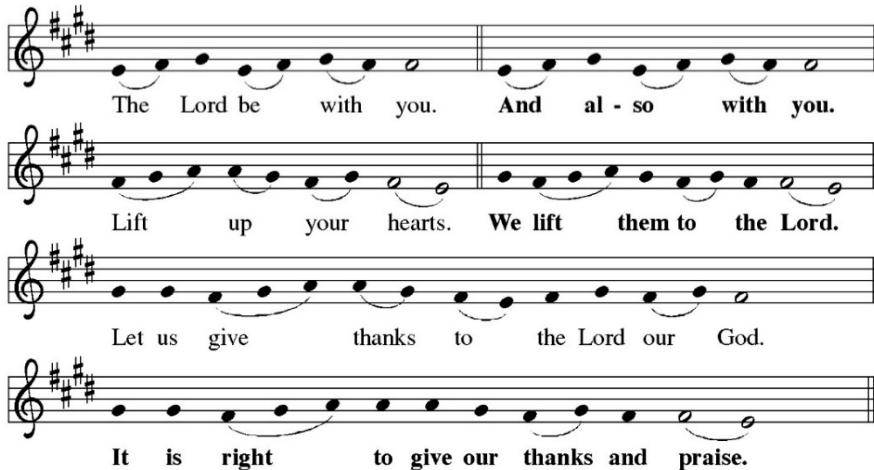


fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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.

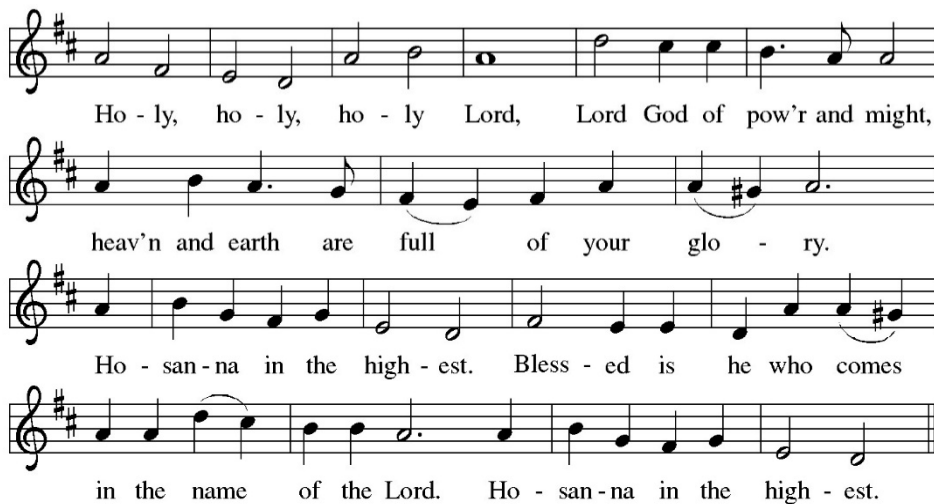
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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.

Text & music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

In This Feast of Love

ACS 962

1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us
feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom-ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the
blood and your bod-y, Je-sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div-ine.
joy of your Spir-it, ev-er-liv-ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Text © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.**
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.**
- 3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.**
- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.**

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
Text sts. 1-3 © Lutheran World Federation. Text st. 4 © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion, admin.
Augsburg Fortress.

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- L** Sustaining God,
- C** **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.**

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SENDING

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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
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DISMISSAL

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

☛ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Mark Jones, *organ*

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Dn. Eric Haitz	Deacon
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Jim Smejkal	Facility & Events Director
Toby Rees	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 10 & 11, 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 Julie Dragon, Alexis & Sophia in memory of Steve Dragon

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in honor of Joan Jacobson-Trotter’s birthday from her family

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 11: Reception of New Members & ELCA Statement: Faith and Civic Life
October 18: ELCA Statement: Faith and Civic Life, cont.

Welcome New Members!

This morning we joyfully welcome new members to our congregation. Join them in the Fellowship Hall

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*

between services for a reception, introduce yourself, and help our newest members feel at home.

First Communion Class

Sunday, October 11

11:00 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.

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)

Join us for fellowship and discussion.

Sunday School Leaders Needed

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

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

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

11:00 AM First Communion Class

12:15 PM Book Group

3:00 PM Strike out Diabetes

Bowling Bash

October 12 Monday

Columbus Day (Observed)

10:00 AM Pantry

October 13 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

October 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group

12:15 PM Worship

3:00 PM Devotions @ deFreese

Manor

5:45 PM Confirmation @ St.

Timothy

October 15 Thursday

Good News Deadline

Council Reports Due

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

October 16 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

October 17 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

5:00 PM Trunk-or-Treat

October 18 Sunday

Pentecost 21

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 Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

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

For Your Calendar/News & Notes, *continued*

and include trunks, games, and family fun. **Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids! Everyone is welcome.** Join us in the west parking lot 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.

Grief Seminar

Sunday, November 1

12:15 - 1:45 PM

Fellowship Hall

The holiday season can be especially challenging when you're grieving. If you're struggling, you're not alone. Join us for a compassionate conversation led by Deacon Sue Simmons. Deacon Simmons has years of experience leading grief groups and she is currently the Bereavement Coordinator for Tabitha Hospice (soon to be Immanuel Hospice.) Come explore ways to navigate your grief and find support within our community. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 402-341-7761 by October 28 so we have an idea of how many to plan on for lunch & materials.

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 rice, lentils, and shampoo/conditioner. 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 especially need more help for Monday mornings.**

There are two shifts available: 9:30–11 AM & 11 AM–1 PM. 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>



Pantry

We're also looking for someone who enjoys working with a computer or iPad to help register guests.

Whether you can give an hour and a half, two hours, or help with guest registration, your time makes a difference for our neighbors.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, October 1—Wednesday, October 7

Saturday: 22

Sunday: 9:00: 138 11:00: 66

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 239

Streaming: 62

Pantry Guests Served: 554 (inc. 209 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 17

Offering:

\$13,952.53 (Regular)

\$2,846.38 (Specials)

\$152.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's grace is powerful and trustworthy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Isaiah 25:1-9	A prayer of thanks to God
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Paul encourages his co-workers
Wednesday	Exodus 32:1-14	The people make an idol
Thursday	Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23	A nation asks for forgiveness
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, guide our thoughts and actions in ways that reflect your reign of goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who promise us a feast of rich food, help us to take joy in this meal today. Amen. (Isaiah 25:6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

When did you go to a party that was memorable? What made it memorable?

Who do you think God would invite to a great banquet? Why?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 22:1-14.

The good news of Jesus is powerful and meant to make a difference in the world. God's mercy has the last word. It also includes a divine judgment that says that the marginalized, the "outsider," the "*poor in spirit*" (Matthew 5:3) will be blessed. If we take the grace of God for granted, we not only miss the feast, we miss the fact that "*many are called, but few are chosen*" (v. 14). Jesus is quite aware that many will miss his invitation to a way of life that brings love and salvation rather than hate and judgment. This text is from Jesus' final week before his crucifixion. The people see him as a prophet, a true messenger of God (Matthew 21:46), but soon he will suffer, be humiliated, and die. There will be false prophets who come along. They are like the guest who is not wearing the proper clothing and their message is to be rejected. Our life in Christ will not be associated with messages and actions of indifference, contempt, or hateful revenge to gain an advantage over others. God's grace makes the difference in our lives and world; God's grace is powerful and trustworthy.

Discuss: What are some things we do that might take God's grace and mercy for granted?

Pray: **God of grace and mercy, cleanse us of our way of life that can become indifferent to the people we do not want to see yet are the very people you love 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 help, support, and care for the homeless or those who are often overlooked?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

World Food Day is celebrated each year on October 16. It was founded by the United Nations in 1979 to raise awareness about hunger and malnutrition and to promote healthy food diets for all. There is a theme this week in the Bible readings about feasts and hospitality. Hospitality is receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, kind, and generous way. Think or talk about what it means to show hospitality. Prepare a healthy meal. Before eating it, take a moment to reflect on how you can help feed others.

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for this meal, a sign of your care for us. Help us to care for others in the name of Jesus our Lord and Shepherd. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22