KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

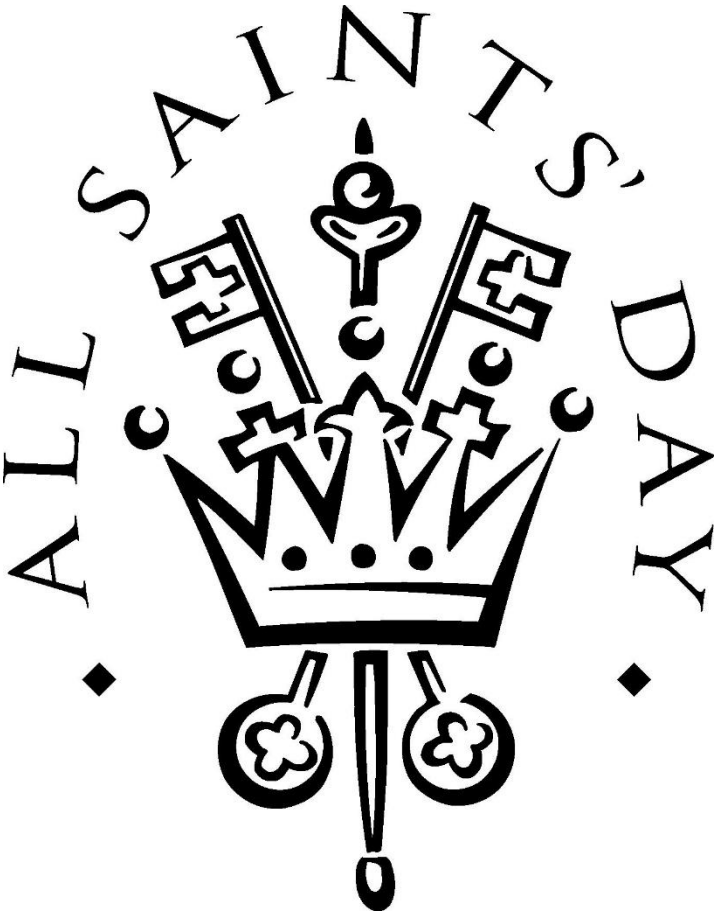
A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

November 1, 2026 **9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

ALL SAINTS



All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Suite no. 2 in D Minor 1. Prelude* by J. S. Bach
Tim Strang, *cellist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*rise in body or spirit*)
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity ✢ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C **Amen.**

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Holy God,

C **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation**
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

L Inherit the riches of God's grace.
✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.

C **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* **ELW 362 vs. 1, 2, 6, 8**

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious king,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his wounded side.
Alleluia!

2 Praise we Christ, whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

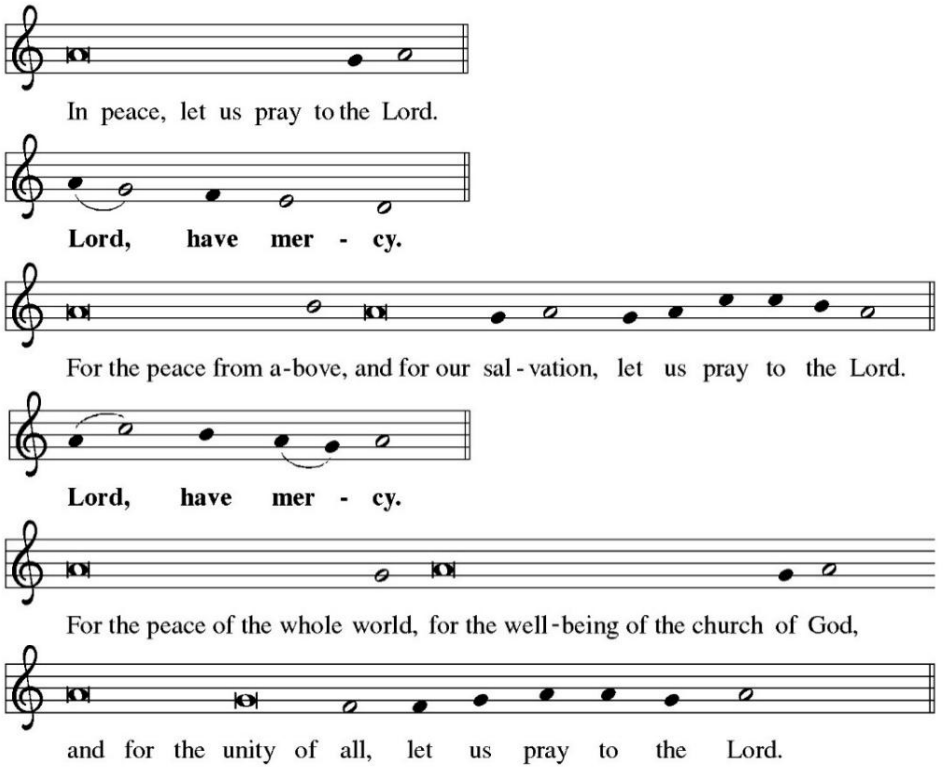
Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt.

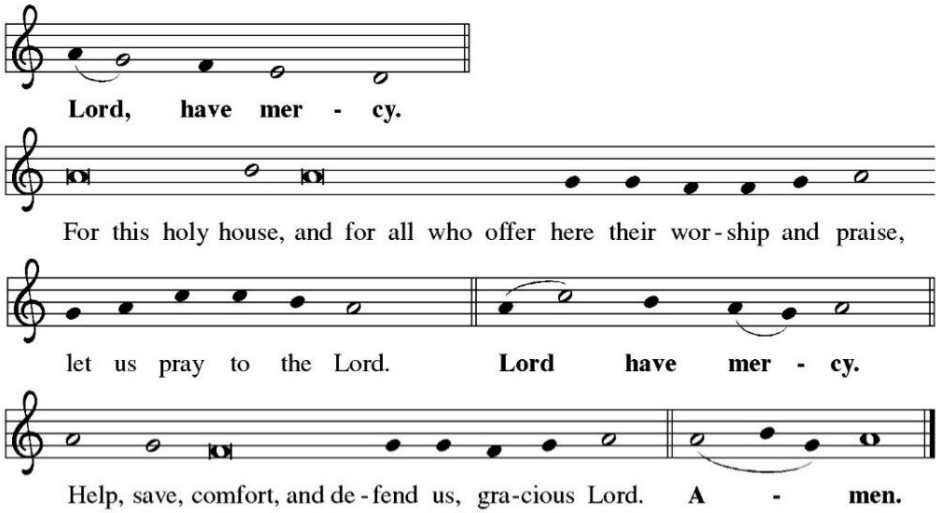
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

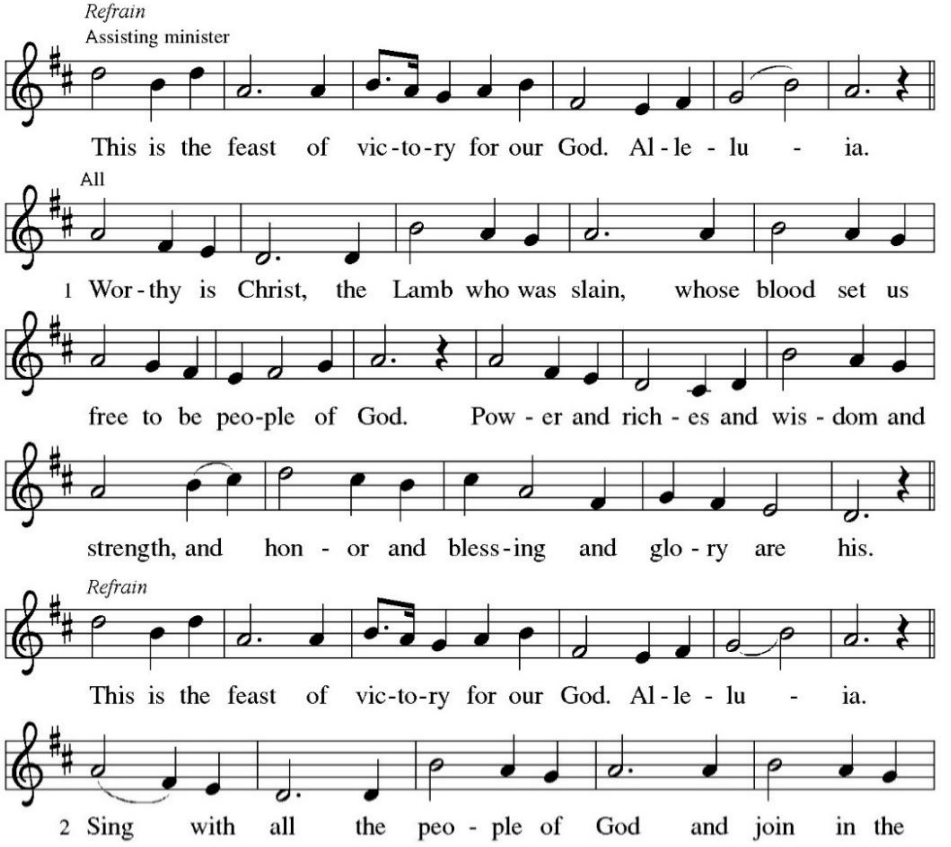
C **And also with you.**

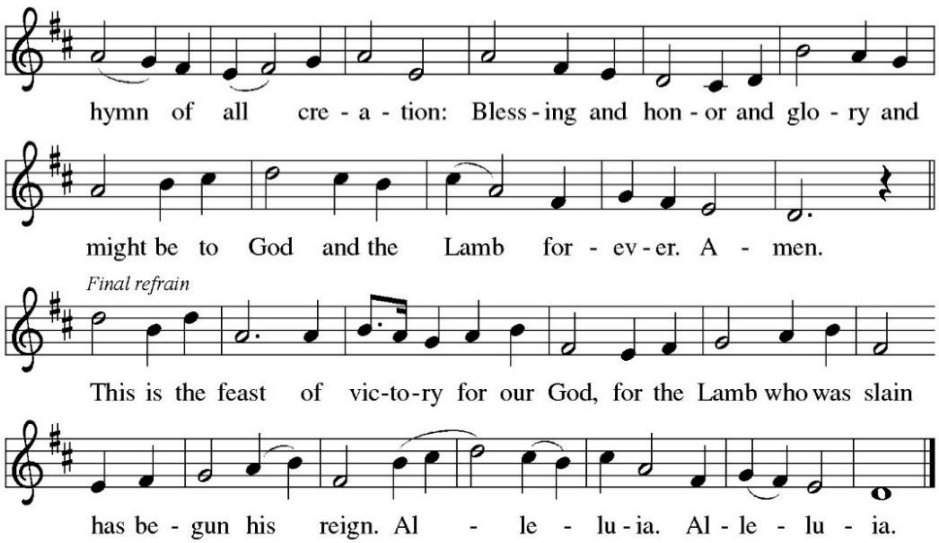
KYRIE





THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Almighty God,

C **you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(*sit*)

FIRST READING **Revelation 7:9-17**

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. [10] They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

[11] And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] singing,

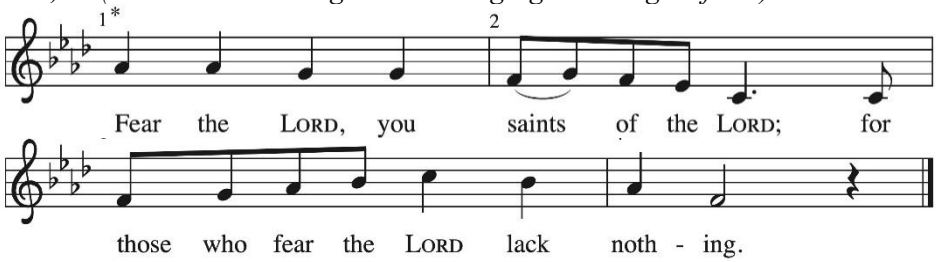
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" [14] I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

PSALM 34:1-10, 22 *(choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)*



1 I will bless the Lord | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.
2 I will glory | in the Lord;
let the lowly hear | and rejoice. *Refrain*

3 Proclaim with me the greatness | of the Lord;
let us exalt God's | name together.
4 I sought the Lord, who | answered me
and delivered me from | all my terrors.
5 Look upon the Lord | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.
6 I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me
and saved me from | all my troubles. *Refrain*

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who | fear the Lord
and de- | livers them.
8 Taste and see that the | Lord is good;
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!
9 Fear the Lord, you saints | of the Lord,
for those who fear the | Lord lack nothing.
10 The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing | that is good.
22 O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. *Refrain*

SECOND READING **1 John 3:1-3**

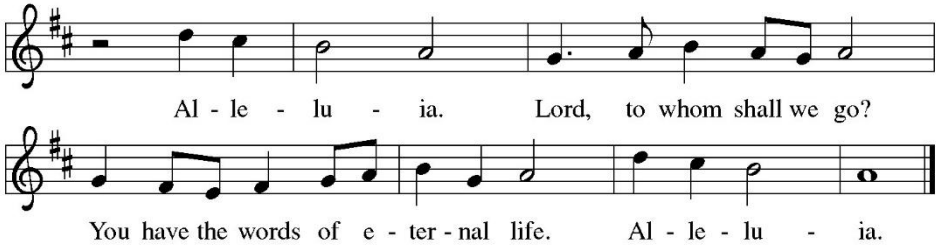
A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. [3] And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 5:1-12**

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 264

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2] And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

[7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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 *Pastor Hall*

(*rise in body or spirit*)

HYMN OF THE DAY *For All the Saints* **ELW 422 vs. 1-4**

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS OF GOD, JOINED TO CHRIST THROUGH THE GIFT OF BAPTISM

Five Pieces in Folk-Style, II. Langsam by Robert Schumann
Tim Strang, *cellist*

We give thanks for the life and witness of those saints who have gone before us and now rest with God. Today we remember those saints of our own faith community who entered the church triumphant since All Saints' Day last year.

Debby Woosley
Bill Johnson
Dale Grundman
Paul Richard
Bob Wynard
Nita Mueller
Dan Wolf
Oral Long
Shirley Gersib
Kevin Kochanowicz
Marie Kubat
Jay Jacobson
Bill Smejkal
Ronald Strazdas
Russ Flock
Kathy Cole
Margaret Nelson
Jim Poffenbarger
Alice Pickinpaugh
Lorna Swingen
Shirley Dietrich
James Reed
Rev. Harold Schmidt
Jennifer Chapman
Mirrah Fleming
Wanda Frykberg
Larry Jacobsen
Susan Clark

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them.

We give thanks for those who have been welcomed through baptism into the Body of Christ and into the mission we share since All Saints' Day last year.

Ivvie Mae Corona
Wynn Allen Durio
Ella Elizabeth Schoonover
Logan Richard Phillips
Marshall Eugene Phillips

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

C **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 God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

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

Prayers this week: Judith Hamaker, Judy McIntire, Allyson White

On-going Care: Darlene 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, Linda Hoagland, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Kate McCoy, Lynn Meyer, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, Noelle Phelps, John Rayno

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

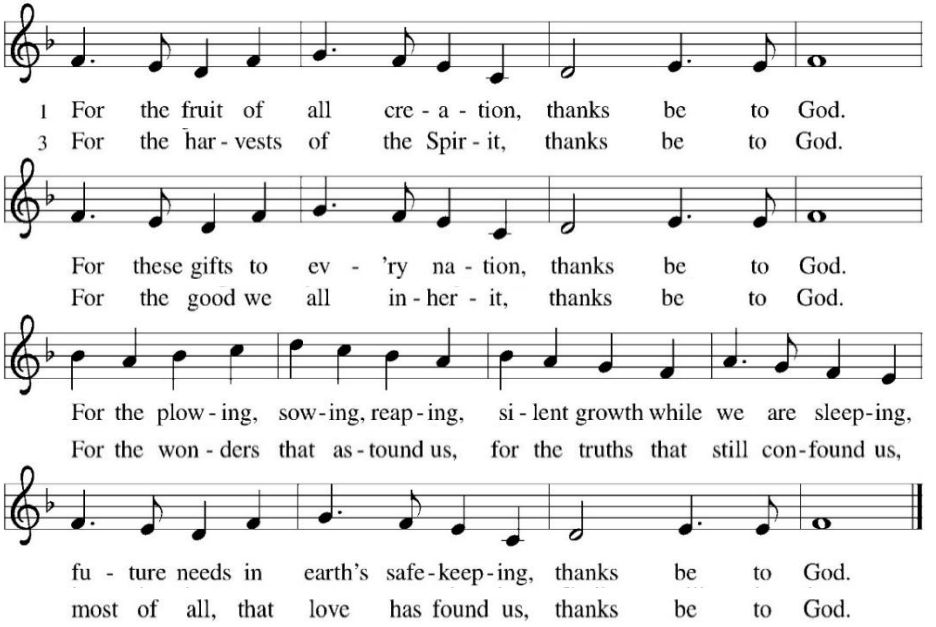
We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your 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 *Jesus is My Song of Grace* words & music by Joseph M. Martin

(*rise in body or spirit*)

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



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

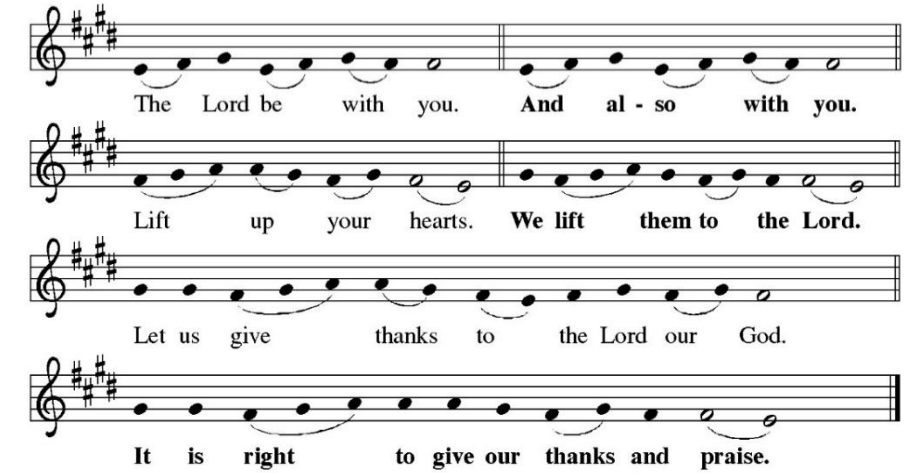
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

L Eternal God,

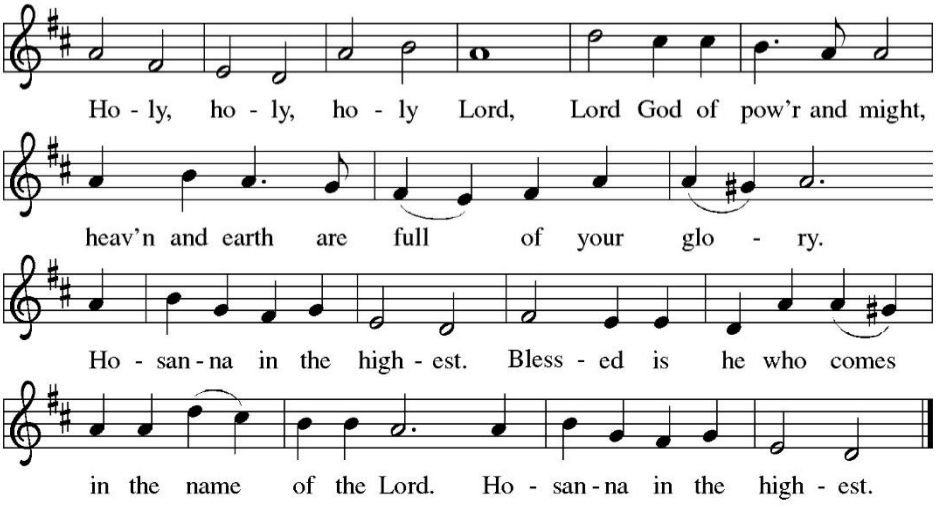
C **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVNG



PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



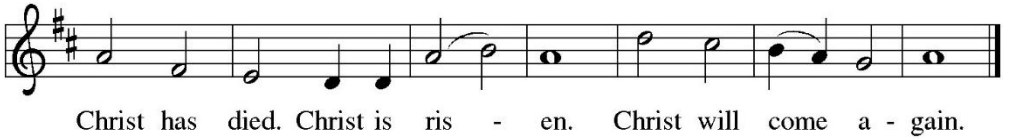
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

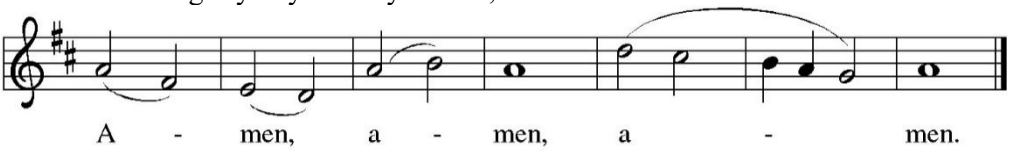
In the night in which he was betrayed, …
… Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.



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



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

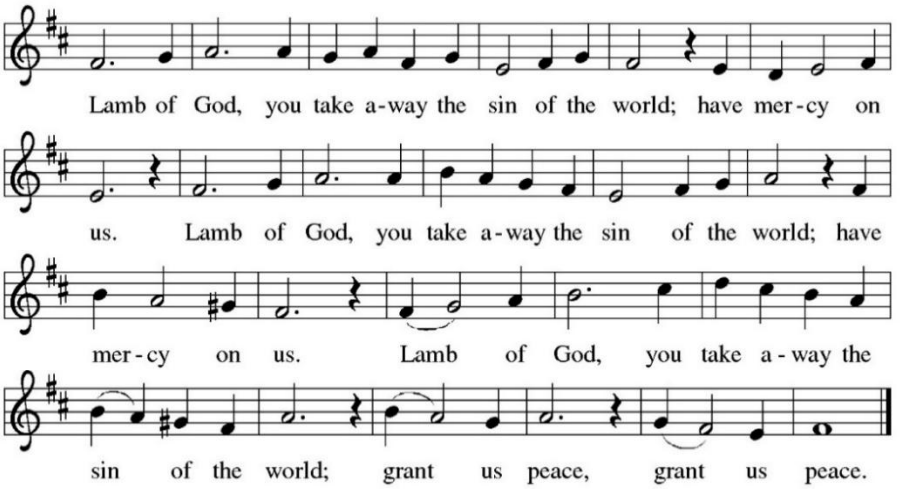
C **In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.**

(*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*



Text & music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Suite in D Minor IV. Sarabande* by J. S. Bach
Tim Strang, *cellist*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* **ELW 873 vs. 1-4**

1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your king.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 With voice as full and strong
as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
the psalms of ancient days. *Refrain*

3 With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints on earth
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth. *Refrain*

4 Still lift your standard high,
still march in firm array,
as pilgrims through the darkness wend
till dawns the golden day. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.

(*rise in body or spirit*)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Holy God,

C **we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

L The holy Trinity, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN *My God, How Wonderful Thou Art* **ELW 863 vs. 1-4**

1 My God, how wonderful thou art,
thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful thy mercy seat
in depths of burning light!

2 How wonderful, how beautiful
the sight of thee must be--
thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,
and awesome purity!

3 No earthly father loves like thee;
no mother, e'er so mild,
bears and forbears as thou hast done
with me, thy sinful child.

4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,
almighty as thou art,
for thou hast stooped to ask of me
the love of my poor heart.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

DISMISSAL

L Go out in joy. Encourage one another.

C **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. CCLI License # 2347179.

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

October 31 & November 1, 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.*

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/pastorlucy/45min

Today at Kountze Memorial

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.
Please Note: On Sunday, November 8, we will have a continental breakfast with pastries and yogurt due to a very light crew that Sunday. There will be doughnuts and yogurt for the Sunday School.

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.
November 1: Fellowship
November 8: My Omaha Discussion

Grief Seminar
Sunday, November 1
12:15 - 1:45 PM
Fellowship Hall
The holiday season can be especially challenging when you're grieving. 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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 1 Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Daylight Savings--fall back 1 hour
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 Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
12:15 PM Grief Seminar

November 2 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry

November 3 Tuesday
Election Day
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 4 Wednesday
12:15 PM Worship
5:45 PM Confirmation @ St. Timothy
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

November 5 Thursday
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

November 6 Friday
1:30 PM Larry Jacobsen Funeral
5:00 PM Pantry

November 7 Saturday
Homebound Communion
2:00 PM My Omaha Film Screening (at Kountze Memorial)
5:00 PM Worship

November 8 Sunday
Pentecost 24
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
12:15 PM Book Group
12:15 PM OSJ Training

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

My Omaha: Film Screening and Community Conversation
Saturday, November 7
2 PM
How do we stay connected when we see the world differently? Join us at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for a free screening of My Omaha, a powerful documentary by filmmaker Nick Beaulieu exploring Omaha's racial history, the racial justice movement, and the ways political differences can divide families and communities. Director Nick Beaulieu and community activist Leo Louis II will join us for a guided conversation following the film. Together, we'll reflect on what we've seen and heard and consider how we can better understand one another across differences. **The conversation continues on Sunday, November 8, during Adult Forum**, when Nick and Leo will return to help us process the film's themes and continue the discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone interested in exploring our community's history, listening to different perspectives, and building understanding across divides. We hope you'll join us for this important opportunity to listen, learn, and engage in conversation together.

KMLC Book Group
12:15 PM
Fellowship Lounge
Sunday, November 8
***Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell**
Hamnet is a historical novel of the plague set in 1580 England during the Black Death Epidemic. The themes of the book are nature, spirit, grief, and pain. The novel has been made into a movie. Join us for good conversation.
NOTE: There will be no book group meeting in December. Happy Holidays!.

Worship & Music Committee
Meeting Thursday, November 12
6:30 PM

Meet Me at the Manger
Saturday, November 14
10 AM - 1 PM
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
A WELCA gathering for all women of the church and their guests
10 AM Registration & Nativity displays
10:30 AM Brunch
11:30 AM Program with Pr. Ashley Hall

An Evening at the Manger
Saturday, November 14 - Following 5 PM Worship
Enjoy the Nativity displays, cookies and coffee, and music provided by young adults.

Share your Nativity Set
Help fill the display with cherished Nativity sets.
BRING YOUR NATIVITY
November 7 & 8, or November 14 before 8:30 AM.
PICK UP YOUR NATIVITY
Sunday, November 15, during or after Forum.

Youth Friendsgiving Dinner
Sunday November 15
5 - 8 PM
Get ready for a night of food, friends, and fast-paced fun at our upcoming Youth Progressive Dinner! This isn't your average sit-down meal—we will be traveling to different host homes for each course of the night, delicious appetizers, a filling main course, and wrapping things up with an epic dessert. Make sure to bring your appetite, and your energy, because you won't want to miss a single stop on this unforgettable night! RSVP to Sheila (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to join.

Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 19
11:30 AM
Guys, do you have a winning chili recipe—or just love a good bowl of chili and great fellowship? Join us for our 7th Annual Men's Chili Cookoff! Sign up at the Welcome Desk, call the church office, or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, November 17 and let us know if you're coming and if you'll be entering a pot of chili or attending as a taster. Sign up at the Welcome Desk, call the church office, or email jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, November 18 and let us know if you're coming and if you'll be entering a pot of chili or attending as a taster.
Cost:

Chili entrants: Free

Tasters: Suggested donation is a new stuffed animal or toy to be given as Christmas gifts to children served by the Kountze Food Pantry.

Cornbread and dessert will be provided. Come sample the entries, vote for your favorites, and enjoy a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and friendly competition! Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis. Will Deacon's Delight be the winner two years in a row?

Advent Fair
Sunday, November 22
The Advent Fair will be held a week early this year. By having it on November 22nd, we are hoping that it will be better attended than on Thanksgiving weekend when families might be travelling. Be sure to join in on the fun!

Decorate for Advent
Sunday, November 22
12 PM
You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 22
Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha
6 - 7 PM
Youth Service Project
5-6 PM
Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude, reflection, and community as congregations from across Omaha's diverse faith traditions come together for our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Following the service, all are invited to enjoy a dessert reception, a sweet opportunity to connect and continue the conversation with neighbors old and new.

David McGinness, Youth Director at Countryside, would like to invite all youth, 6-12th grades, to participate in a Pizza & Service night before the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service. The youth will be making Walker Bags for Together Omaha. Walker Bags are 1-gallon ziploc bags full of essentials such as water, granola bars, snacks, hand warmers, and soap that Together's Street Outreach team takes out every day to visit our unhoused neighbors. Please RSVP to Sheila Valquier (sheila@kmlchurch.org) to let her know if you - and maybe a friend - may be attending.

National Youth Gathering
Registration is Open
Youth Participants and Adult Leaders!
Youth entering 9th grade through those graduating in spring 2027, as well as young adults, are eligible to participate! The 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering is on the horizon, and now is the time to start planning! If you've ever been, you know what a formational experience the gathering is! This incredible opportunity brings young people together from across the ELCA for faith, fellowship, worship, service, and an unforgettable experience of being part of a larger church community. Contact Sheila Valquier — sheila@kmlchurch.org or Deacon Eric Haitz — eric@kmlchurch.org for more information. Share this info. with families and young people who might be interested in joining us for this amazing experience.

Kountze Food Pantry
Our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry is in need of your gifts and service. The current needs for the pantry are Ramen noodles, juice boxes, and diapers. 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 help on 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.

Pantry

https://tinyurl.com/uausdddp

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 22—Wednesday, October 28

Saturday: 21
Sunday: **9:00**: 153 **11:00**: 77
Wednesday: 12:15: 11
Total: 262
Streaming:
Pantry Guests Served: 781 (inc. 249 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20
Offering:
$24,554.31 (Regular) $5,285.75 (Specials)
$1,127.15 (Debt Reduction)

All our sorrows will be wiped away.

taking faith home

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes
Monday	Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away tears
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-3	Our hope in God
Wednesday	Isaiah 54:5-10	The eternal covenant of peace
Thursday	Romans 15:14-21	Paul's work as a missionary
Friday	John 11:17-27	The resurrection and life
Saturday	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	Honor the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	Parable of the ten bridesmaids

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[F]or the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." **Revelation 7:17 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for joining us to the saints throughout the ages through our shepherd, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food as we taste and see that you are good. Amen. (Psalm 34:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May God wipe away every tear. (Revelation 7:17)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

When have you grieved the loss of a loved one? Tell a story about that person.

How does God comfort you when you are sad and grieving?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 7:9-17.

The seer of this heavenly vision allows us to imagine the future of loved ones who have died, especially those who have shaped our own lives of faith with their living witness. Most likely they did not experience the kind of persecution envisioned in Revelation, but all lives know the pain and turmoil of daily struggles. In the end, what remains of their—and our—sufferings and disappointments are swept up in a larger reality, one that sees the Lamb at the center. This is Christ, our shepherd, who suffered and died, and through whose blood our lives are purified so that we all may stand before the throne of God. The truth of the reign of God through the Good Shepherd is that all our sorrows will be wiped away. We look to a future where there are no more tears and no more sadness to overcome. There is a great victory in life. It is the victory of the Lamb who was slain and now begins his reign of *"[b]lessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and power and might . . . to our God forever and ever! Amen"* (v. 12). *Discuss:* Where or who do you turn to for comfort when a loved one has died?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, we thank you for the promise of life and love and peace for all the saints—past, present, and future—through Christ our shepherd. 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 reach out and support someone who is grieving a loss?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to remember all the saints in our lives, both the living and the dead. Think or talk about memories you have of people who have blessed your life. *Light a candle and pray:* **Dear God, thank you for the life of [name of people]. I am grateful for all the blessings that came to my life through them. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13