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

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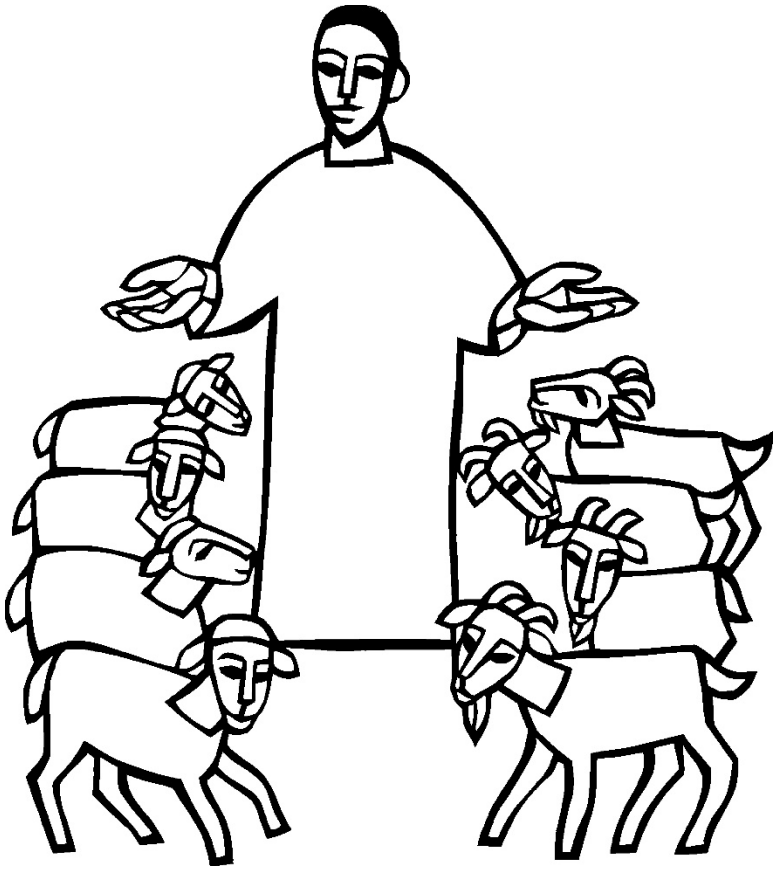
www.kmlchurch.org

November 22, 2026 **9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

CHRIST THE KING



On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Mark Jones, *organ*

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 *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* **ELW 835 vs. 1-4**

1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

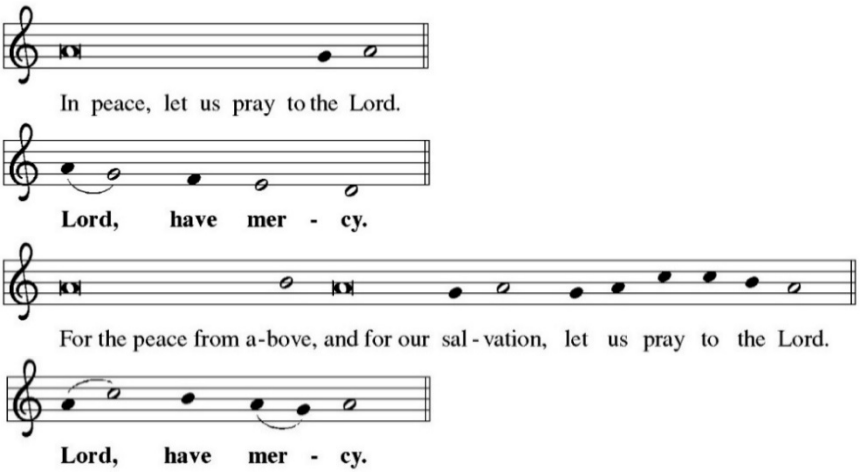
Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

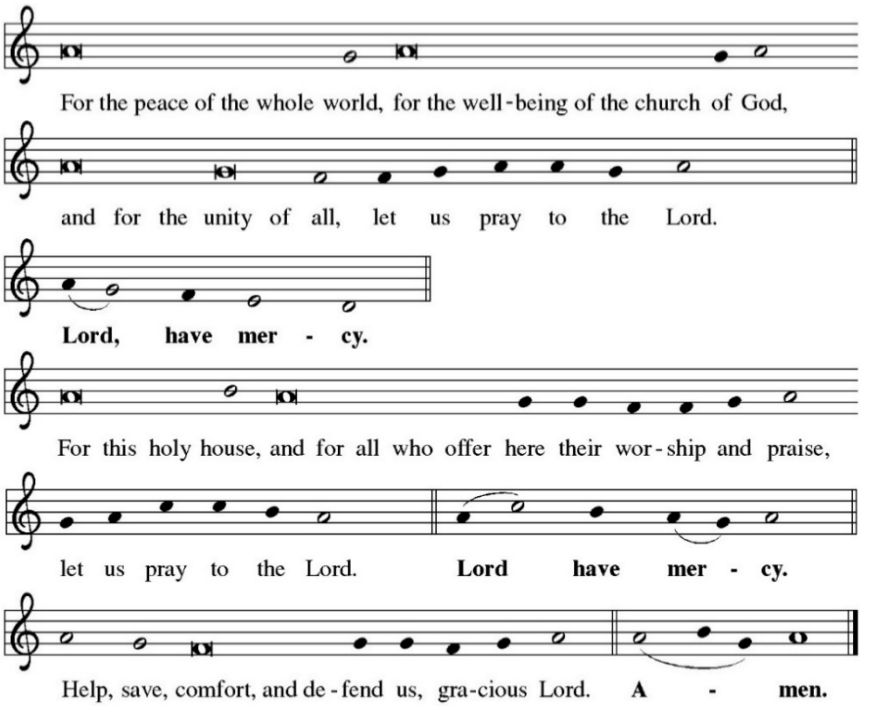
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

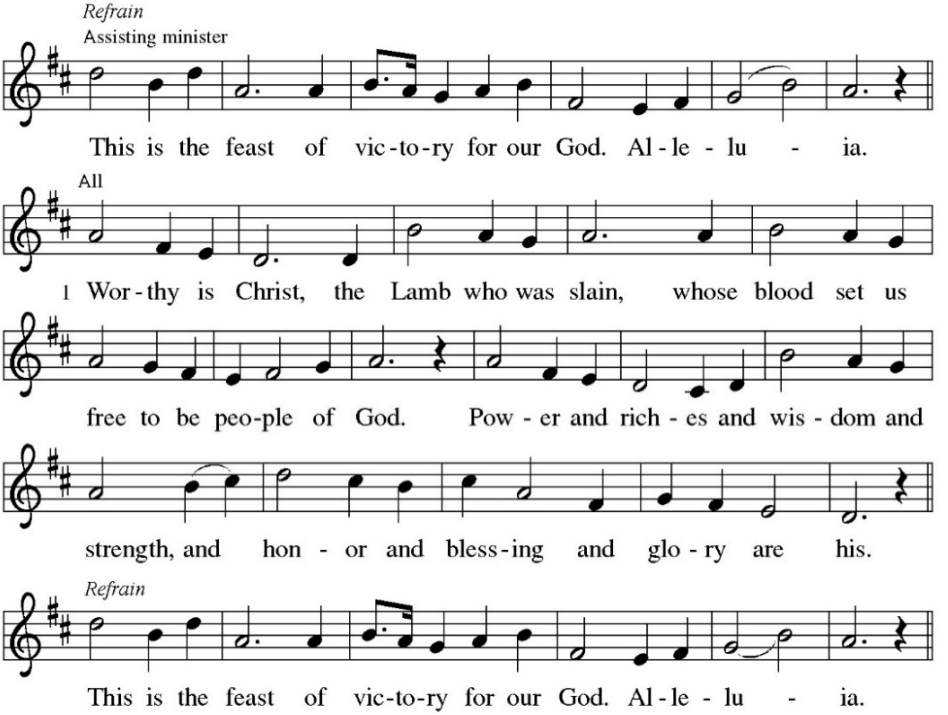
C **And also with you.**

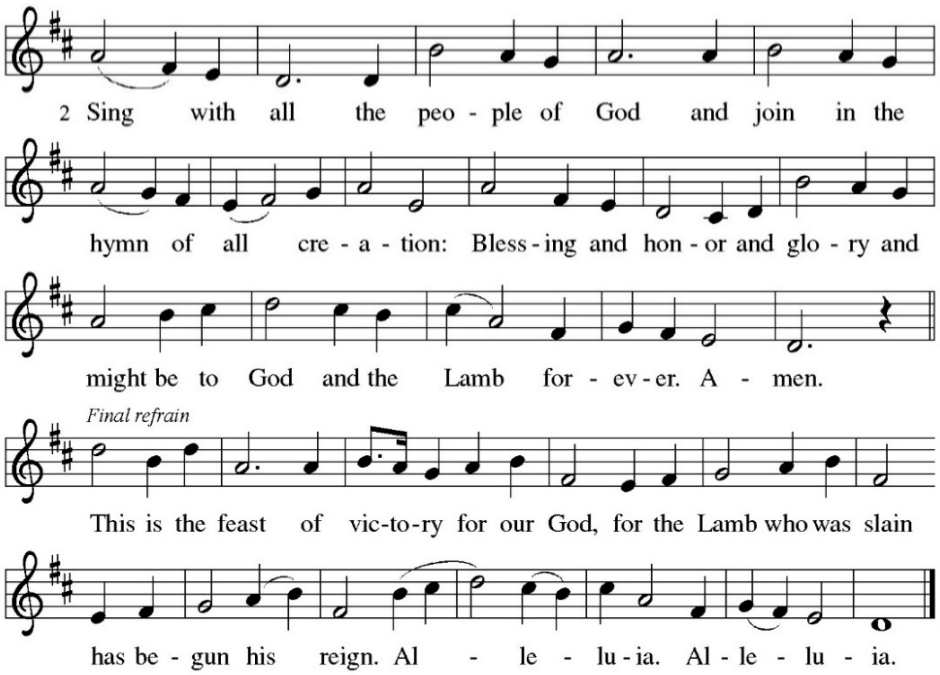
KYRIE





THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

L O God of power and might,

C **your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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 **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

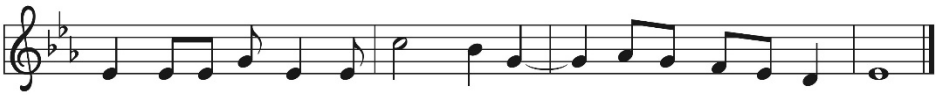
Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. [12] As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. [13] I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. [14] I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. [15] I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. [16] I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but

the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. [20] Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. [21] Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, [22] I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

[23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24] And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

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

PSALM 95:1-7a *(choir or cantor sing verses / congregation sings refrain)*



[1] Come, let us sing | to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
[2] Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.
[3] For you, Lord, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
[4] In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours. *Refrain*

[5] The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
[6] Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.
[7a] For the Lord | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. *Refrain*

SECOND READING **Ephesians 1:15-23**

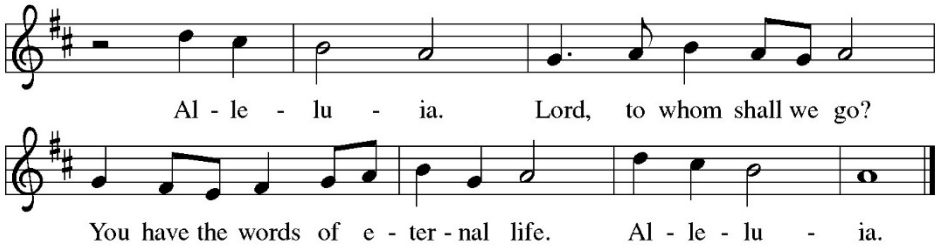
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25:31-46**

Children may follow along using the Spark Bible turning to page 318

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

Jesus said to the disciples: 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then
he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate
people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at
his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you
who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,
35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a
stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of
me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we
saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that
we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we
saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you
did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to
those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil
and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to
drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and
in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will
answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to
me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* **ELW 645**

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.

2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.

3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

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.

(*sit*)

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM) **see ELW pg 227**

Serenity Star Pierce

After the baptism, the congregation welcomes the newest members:

L Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

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*)

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Serenity Star Pierce (11/22/2026)

Prayers this week: Ryan Anderson, Dale Spier

On-going Care: Rev. Jeffrey Alvestad, Darlene Anderson, Nakoma Baker, Judi Boe, Ellie Carlson, Warren Cooke, Jinette Cswercko, Mike & Candace Edris, Kathy Englert, Lucy Etherton, Bob Fonda, Shirley Haitz, Judith Hamaker, Linda Hoagland, Chris Jensen, Linda Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Ralph Morse, Lynnette Olson, John Rayno, Allyson White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Mallory Hoogestraat, daughter of JD & Julie Hoogestraat, Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken & Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert & Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees & Takao Elliott, daughter & son-in-law of Eric & Toby Rees; 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

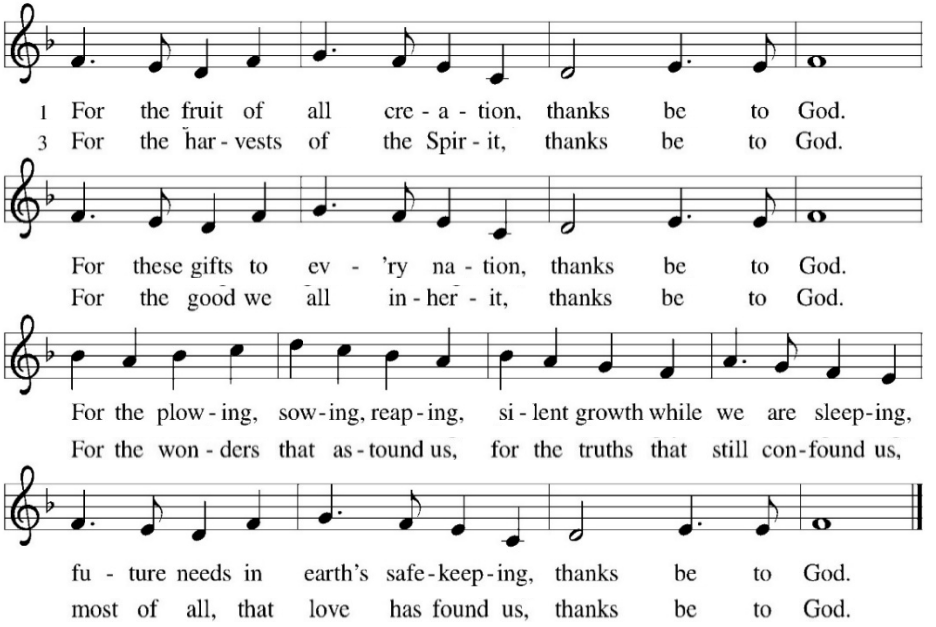
We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your 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 Shall Reign!* arr. by Ernest M Ibbotson

(*rise in body or spirit*)

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



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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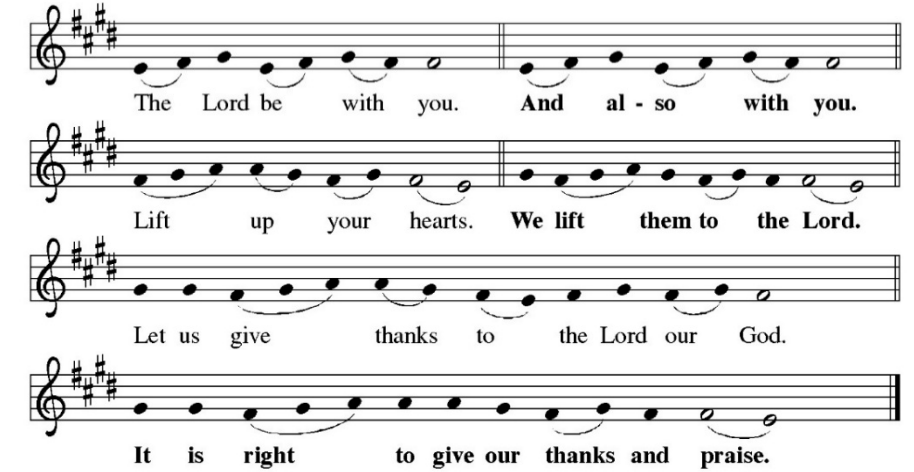
OFFERING PRAYER

L Eternal God,

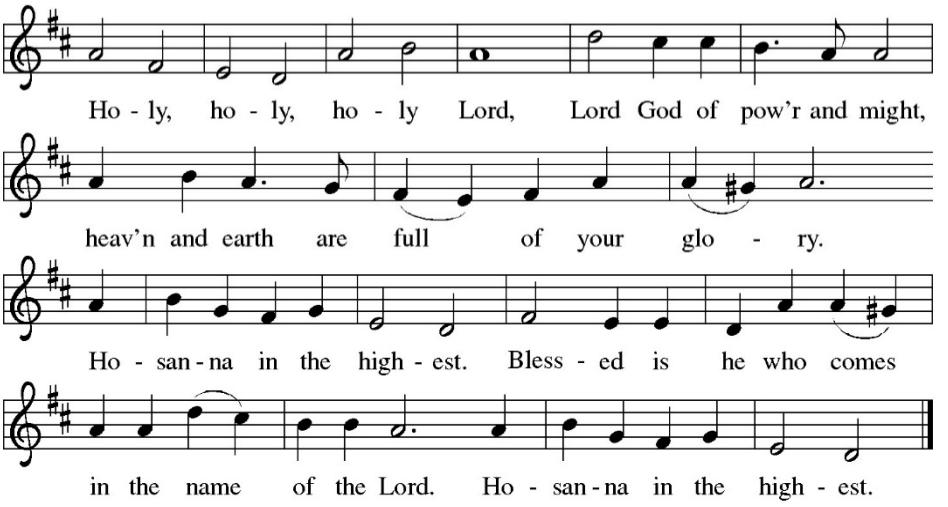
C **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until all the hungry world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVNG



PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



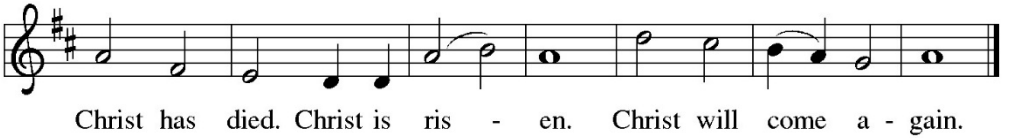
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

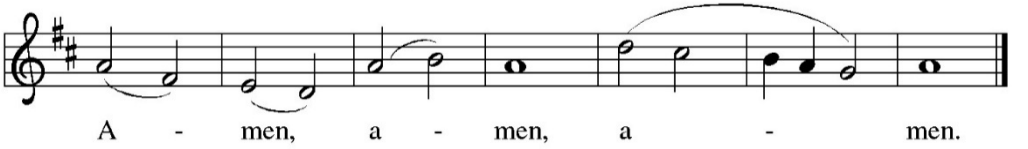
In the night in which he was betrayed, …
… Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

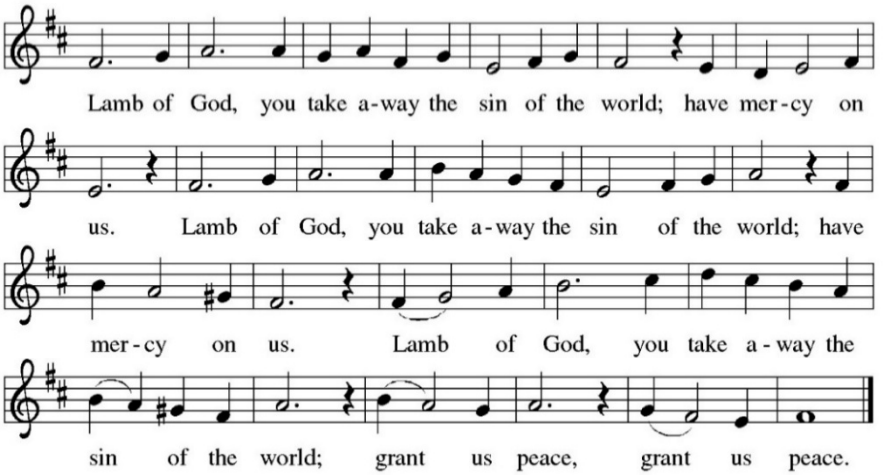
C **In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.**

(*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*



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HYMNS DURING COMMUNION *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* **ELW 311**

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.

2 You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.

3 You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth,
upon a cross they bound you,
and mocked your saving kingship's worth
by thorns with which they crowned you.
And still our wrongs may fashion now
new thorns to pierce that steady brow,
and robe of sorrow round you.

2 O awesome Love, which finds no room
in life where sin denies you,
and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom
the pow'r that crucifies you,
till not a stone is left on stone,
and then the nations' pride, o'erthrown,
will nevermore defy you!

3 New advent of the love of Christ,
will we again refuse you,
till in the night of hate and war
we perish as we lose you?
From ancient doubts our minds release
to seek the kingdom of your peace,
by which alone we choose you.

4 O wounded hands of Jesus, build
in us your new creation;
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled;
we wait your revelation.
O Love that triumphs over loss,
we bring our hearts before your cross;
come, finish your salvation.

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt.

(*rise in body or spirit*)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Holy God,

C **in this meal we have received your never-ending mercy. 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

BLESSING

℣ 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 *Crown Him with Many Crowns* **ELW 855**

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

DISMISSAL

℣ Go out in joy. Encourage one another.

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE ✢ ✢ ✢ Mark Jones, *organ*

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KOUNTZE STAFF

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Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
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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

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402-341-7761 **www.kmlchurch.org**

November 21 & 22, 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 in celebration in honor of Lynn Schniderman's birthday

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.

Sunday School
10:10 AM
Ages 2 years-6th Grade
Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms where the children will see how Jesus taught his followers to live in God's word and spread that message to others through art, games, storytelling, and missions. The kids can enjoy the same breakfast upstairs that is being served in the Fellowship Hall while listening to the lessons of the day. If you would like to support the Sunday School with donations of juice boxes or individual milk cartons, we would appreciate it and will be serving those with the breakfast.

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 22: Advent Fair
November 29: Fellowship (Thanksgiving weekend)

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, *continued*

Advent Alternative Gifts Market
Sundays, November 22 thru December 13
9:30 - 11:30 AM
Saturday, December 12, 6 PM
Give gifts that make a difference! Support communities around the world through ELCA Good Gifts, or make monetary gifts to our Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry and the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic. Shop beautiful, handcrafted fair-trade gifts from Global Mamas artisans in Ghana, including batik home goods, bags, and recycled-glass ornaments. Share the joy of giving while supporting neighbors near and far!

Homemade Peanut Brittle
Noni is selling peanut brittle again this year as a part of the Alternative Gifts Market. This is a Food Pantry and Human Assistance Fund Raiser. Enjoy some yummy peanut brittle and help someone in need at the same time!

Advent Fair
Sunday, November 22
10 AM - Noon
Be sure to join us in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday morning. All ages are welcome.

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!

Young Adults Thanksgiving (20's & 30's)
Sunday, November 22
12:15 - 1:30 PM
Join us for a special Thanksgiving gathering! We'll share a potluck lunch, enjoy some favorite board games, and spend time connecting and celebrating our growing community. Everyone is welcome!

Nile Lutheran Chapel Kitchen Remodel Open House
4140 N 42nd Street
Sunday, November 22
4 PM
Join our friends at Nile Chapel for an open house celebrating their newly remodeled kitchen. Kountze Memorial helped bring this project to life. Jim Smejkal, Kountze Memorial's Facility Director, visited Nile Chapel and helped identify what needed to be replaced. Scott Henneman managed the remodel and helped with fundraising. A grant from the Kountze Memorial Endowment helped cover a portion of the cost. Come see the new kitchen, thank the people who made it possible, and celebrate with the Nile Chapel community!

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.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 22 Sunday
Christ the King
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 Alternative Gifts Market
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast
10:00 AM Advent Fair
12:00 PM Decorate for Advent
12:15 PM Young Adult Thanksgiving
4:00 PM Nile Chapel Open House
6:00 PM Interfaith Service - Countryside Community Church

November 23 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry

November 24 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
9:00 AM Good News Assembly
1:30 PM Clean Turkeys

November 25 Wednesday
12:15 PM Worship

November 26 Thursday
Thanksgiving
OFFICE CLOSED
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peters

November 27 Friday
OFFICE CLOSED
No Pantry

November 28 Saturday
5:00 PM Worship

November 29 Sunday
Advent 1
Advent Alternative Gifts Market
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 Alternative Gifts Market
9:30 AM Kountze Café - Breakfast
10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Giving Tuesday
Tuesday, December 1
Would you consider an extra gift to Kountze Memorial and/or Kountze Commons on Giving Tuesday? As a congregation, help us Bridge the Gap in our general operating budget this year - knowing that your gift sustains the ministry that happens every day of the week and to people of every age and walk of life here at Kountze Memorial. Your gift to Kountze Commons is how we continue to "Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, and Tend the Soul." Donate online at kmlchurch.org (Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church) and kountzecommons.org (Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center). You may also send or drop-off your gifts in the church office, made out to Kountze Memorial or Kountze Commons. Many, many thanks for your generosity!

Advent Meals & Worship
December 2, 9, and 16
Lunch: 11 AM – Noon
Supper: 5 – 6:30 PM
Worship: 12:15 & 6:30 PM
Join us for a Lenten meal before Worship each Wednesday. We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals. All meals are free will offering and served with choice of coffee, water, or tea. We can always use volunteers to help with prep, serving, or clean-up throughout the day even if it's just for an hour or two. Please sign up at the welcome desk or by emailing jim@kmlchurch.org if you can help. **Note:** Confirmation Youth are expected to attend Advent services and meals as part of their continued learning.

Candlelight Carol Service
Saturday, December 12
Prelude 4:40 PM
Service 5 PM
The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church! We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of Sacred Scripture and Poetry, Congregational Carols, Communion, and Choral, Handbell and Instrumental Music. Please join us for this special evening as we journey through Advent and celebrate the Birth of Our Savior! Nursery care will be provided. Cheese and dessert reception following the service.

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 13
9 AM Worship Service
Join us for the 9 AM Worship service to hear the Good News told by the youngest members of our congregation.

Noisy Offering
Sunday, December 13
The Sunday School students are encouraging everyone to dig deep into their pockets, purses, and couch cushions to help raise money for ELCA Good Gifts. During the Adult Forum on December 13, the students will be passing the bucket to raise money for sustainable and life changing resources for communities in need globally. Start saving your coins to make a joyful noise!

A Merry Tuba Christmas
Held at Kountze Memorial
Sunday, December 13
3 PM
This is a free concert and open to the public. Bring your friends. It's a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

Youth Home Alone Christmas Party
Sunday, December 13
Grades 6 - 12
3 - 6 PM
Join us for A Merry Tuba Christmas Concert in the Nave, followed by cookie decorating, some dinner, and a Home Alone themed white elephant gift exchange. The best ugly sweater voted wins a prize! RSVP to sheila@kmlchurch.org.

Mosaic International
A few weeks ago Rev. David deFreese spoke at a Sunday Forum about the connection Mosaic has with the the work being done in and around Moshi, Tanzania to support individuals and their families affected by physical and cognitive disabilities. After that, Bryan Coffey spoke about how to become involved with this amazing work. There are opportunities for you to help spread the word about this program, but also to visit Tanzania and see the miracles occurring there for yourself. Getting involved is a life-changing experience and touches thousands of lives. If you would like to learn more about Mosaic International, check the fact sheet link below:

Mosaic Int'l.

https://tinyurl.com/44myuv36
or contact Carol Stoltenberg through the church office.

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 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, November 12—Wednesday, November 18

Saturday: 27
Sunday: **9:00**: 154 **11:00**: 71
Wednesday: 12:15: 16
Total: 268
Streaming: 66
Pantry Guests Served: 867 (inc. 259 children)
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 21
Offering:
$30,450.76 (Regular) $1,676.26 (Specials)
$127.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christ rules now and forevermore.

taking faith home

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats
Monday	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God, the true shepherd
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Wednesday	Psalm 100	All nations to praise the Lord
Thursday	Isaiah 1:16-20	Justice is needed
Friday	Amos 5:10-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalm 95:1-7a	Worship and obey the Lord
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears

CRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. **Ezekiel 34:16 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 95:7a)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, to you we make a joyful noise for all that you do, including your gift of this food for us today. Amen. (Psalm 95:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ the King give you courage.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

What are some values that describe the role of a good leader?

Why is it good news to know that God cares for the poor, the sick, and the hungry?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ezekiel 34:11-24 and Matthew 25:31-46.

The God of the Bible is the God of justice but not just any kind of justice. God's justice recognizes the unfairness of power that abuses the weak. In Ezekiel 34, God has had enough of Judah's unjust shepherds (kings), specifically, the kings who have not taken care of God's sheep. Therefore, God declares the sheep that are lost, strayed, injured, and weak will be cared for by God's power and the fat and strong sheep—those well off at the expense of the weak—will be destroyed. That is the divine judgment Jesus presents in the parable of the sheep and the goats. God's will—Jesus' will, as seen in the Son of Man in the parable—is to provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, or sick. The message is so strong that when anyone has cared for these, they have cared for the Son of Man. The Gospel of Matthew does not shy away from judgment that distinguishes the authentic from the inauthentic life of those who follow Jesus. Matthew speaks against those who abuse their powers, whether religious, social, political, or economic. This final Sunday in the church year recognizes that all evil abuses will end one day and only God's compassion will survive through Christ, the true ruler of all things.

Discuss: In what ways do you live your life that reveals the love of Jesus to those in need?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see you in our neighbors, especially those in need of care through Jesus Christ, the one who is above all rule and authority. 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 support organizations that care for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This year, November 22nd is the last Sunday in the church year. Think or talk about the ministries in your congregation. In the past year, what were the highlights? In what ways did you grow in your faith? How did you share your faith with others? Write your thoughts on a sheet of paper. The new church year begins next week, the First Sunday of Advent. Take a moment to read through your list and think about what you can add to the ways you will share God's love with others in the coming year. *Pray:* **God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. Amen.** (Psalm 95:7a)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37