

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Dean W. Bard, Interim Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Paul Moessner, Interim Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

November 20, 2016

9:00 & 11:00 AM

### CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



*Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears so utterly contradictory that the king should be crucified with the criminal. This victory appears for all the world as ignominious defeat. Yet through the gate of death our Lord opens the door to paradise.*

## PRELUDE

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Bill Ingram, Arr.  
Kountze Handbell Choir

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ In the name of God the Father of glory; in the name of God the ☩ Son, our Redeemer; in the name of God the holy and life-giving Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☞ Gracious God,

☞ ***we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; and work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

☞ With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and ☩ forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

☞ **Amen.**

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

ELW 634

### 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.***

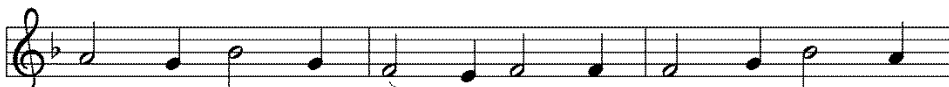
## HYMN OF PRAISE



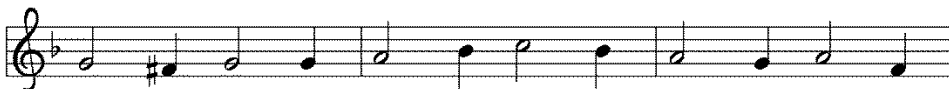
1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



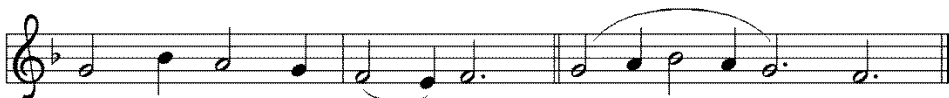
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ O God, our true life,

☑ *to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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****Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Today's reading builds on the common ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, the Lord will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

**W**oe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

<sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**A** The word of the Lord.


**B** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 46**

Psalm 46:10

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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- <sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.
- <sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away. **R**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
<sup>8</sup>Come now, regard the works of the Lord,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;  
<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.  
<sup>10</sup>“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”  
<sup>11</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. 


**SECOND READING**

**Colossians 1:11-20**

*An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.*

**M**ay you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

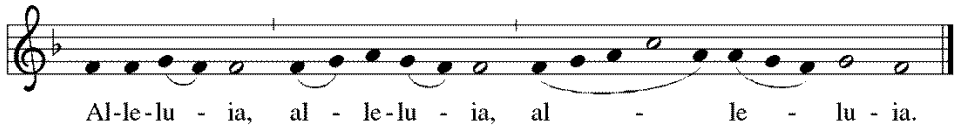
<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

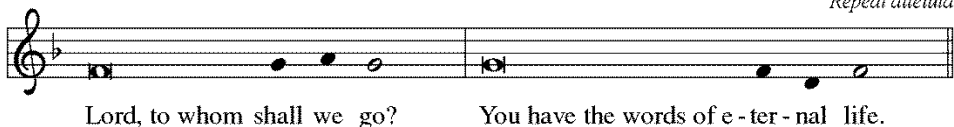
*(stand)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

## GOSPEL

**Luke 23:33-43**

*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.*

**W**hen they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>¶Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."¶ And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**G** *Praise to you, O Christ.*

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children's sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

Rev. Dennis Anderson

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

ELW 865

## **APOSTLES' CREED** (9:00 AM)

☞ ***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.***

## **HOLY BAPTISM** (11:00 AM)

*Aliza Annette Haefele*

*(see page 227)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response: ☞ Lord, in your mercy,  
☞ ***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 Aliza Annette Haefele, daughter of Jonathan & Lora

**Illness:** Anne Forslund, Dee Luchsinger, Gary Lundeen, Charlie Wachholtz

**Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*** – Amy Dyer, Michael McNeill, Scott Meyer, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov and Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*** – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Justin Perkins (Young Adults in Global Mission), Argentina/Uruguay; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

## **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 use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.*



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Joyful, Joyful Sing Praise*

Jay Althouse

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

- ☐ ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

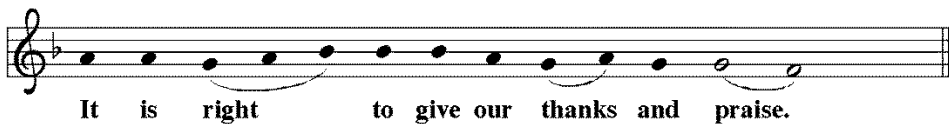
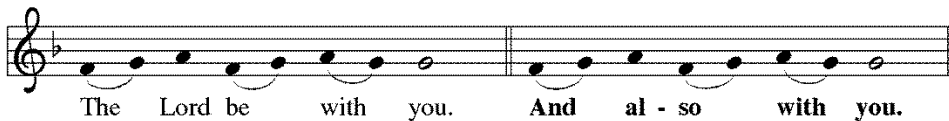
Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

### OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Merciful God,  
☑ ***as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.***



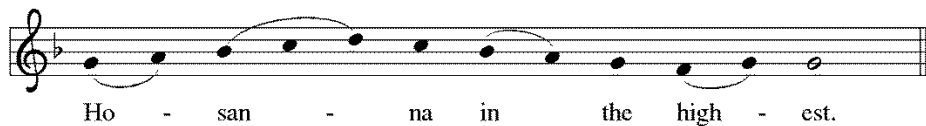
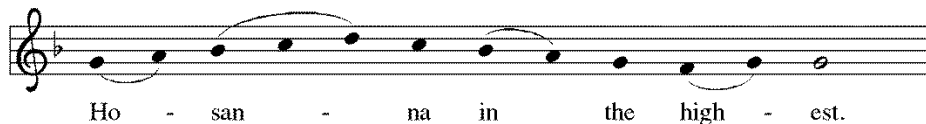
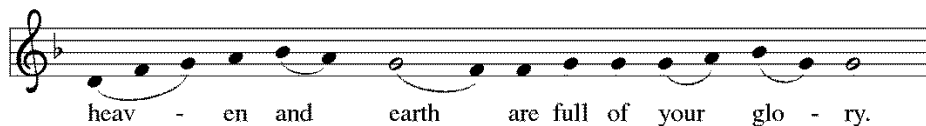
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



*(The Thanksgiving continues)*

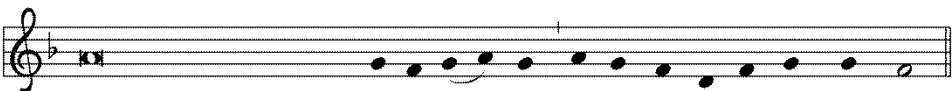
- ▶ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...  
...and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

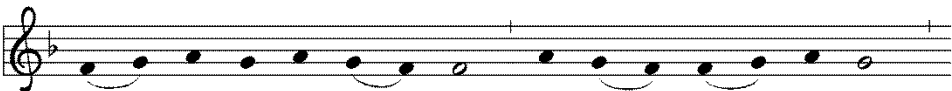


# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** 

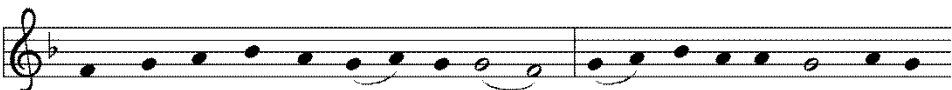
Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.

**G** 

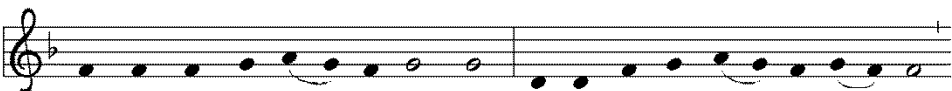
Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



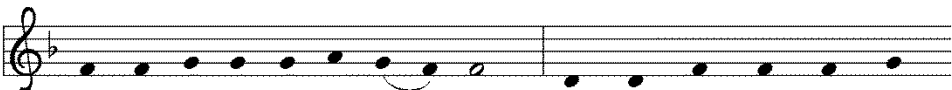
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



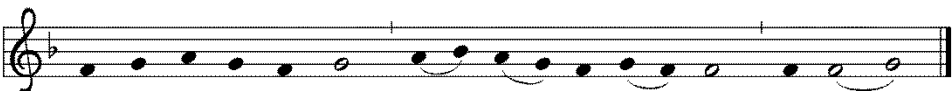
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

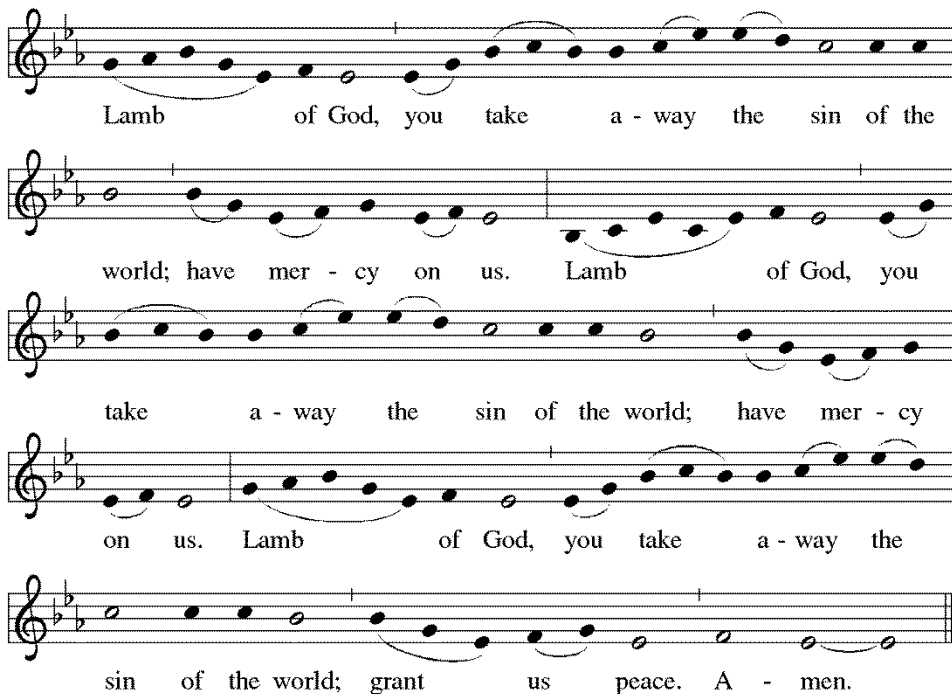
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Share in the inheritance of all the saints. Come to the table prepared for you.

(sit)

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

### 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. A - men.

*Beautiful Savior  
Rejoice, for Christ Is King!*

ELW 838  
ELW 430

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ We give you thanks, shepherding God,
- ☑ ***that you have gathered your scattered flock again this day, feeding us richly with the food of Paradise. Accompany us as we serve you all the days of our lives, and gather us with the saints in the day of our death; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.***

*(sit)*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PLEDGE CARDS**

Rev. Dennis Anderson

Making Your Pledge

Prayer

*(Please place your pledge in the envelope, place the envelope in a basket, and join us for brunch in the Fellowship Hall following the service.)*



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Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Nebraska Synod, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a part of the worldwide Lutheran Church body. We invite you to join us regularly for worship and for a variety of opportunities for growth and service. If you are a new resident in the community and are looking for a church home, we invite you to join this faith community. If you are new here, welcome. If you are “newly returned,” we rejoice with you. If you are a member of long-standing, we celebrate your ministry and your faithfulness.

**WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE**

**HOLY COMMUNION** All who are baptized and trust in Christ's



**KOUNTZE STAFF**

- Pr. Dean W. Bard Interim Senior Pastor
- Pr. Ashley Hall Associate Pastor
- Pr. Paul Moessner Interim Associate Pastor
- Pr. Inba Inbarasu Visitation Pastor
- Katie Larson Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry
- Ian Hartfield Director of Congregational Life
- Debbie Bogue Office Manager
- Amanda Zasada Administrative Assistant
- Sheri Rose Financial Secretary
- John Bogue Building Superintendent
- Tim Walker Chef/Assist to the Bldg Super
- Søren Johnson Assist to the Bldg Super
- Barbara Carlsen Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
- Danny Bos Handbell Director
- Mark Jones Organist
- David Gerard Saturday Accompanist
- Sheri Lynn Tipton Night Security Manager
- Norma Pafford Nursery Superintendent
- Joyce Palmer Urban Ministries Coordinator

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**SUNDAY, 9:00 AM**

- Comm. Asst. Susie Henry, Jeff Perkins, Dan Collett
- Lector Pamela Johnson
- Ushers Dick Nelson, Donna Crouse, Ralph Diggins, Brad Madison, Rodney Nord, Dan Troxel, Sharon West, Ed White, Dean Winther, Bob Johnson
- Greeters Colleen Lenners, Carole Meilahn, Lois Sorensen, Bev Troxel
- Crucifer Bailey Gittler
- Acolytes Madelyn Hinrichs, Angie Arispe

**SUNDAY, 11:00 AM**

- Comm. Asst. Norm Sack, Lowell Harms
- Lector Bruce Nissen
- Ushers Adam Klinker, Ted Kaasch, Dudley Syre, Chet Worm
- Greeter Jo Kayton
- Crucifer Lily O’Kane
- Acolytes Nicole Campbell, Kolbey Burns

presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table today. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Ushers will direct you. Communion is by intinction: you will receive the Host in your hand; you may then dip the Host into the chalice. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP** We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags and children’s bibles and bulletins are available. We also provide a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a variety of toys, games, and books for young children. Parents may watch the service via the TV screen.

**NURSERY** is available from 9 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** Please fill out the cards found in your bulletin. If you are a guest, please fill out the additional information, so we can meet your needs. Then, put the cards in the offering plates. Thanks.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES** are available. Please speak to an Usher if you would like to have a large print bulletin or to use a listening device.

**WELCOME DESK** Our Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall has become a center for hospitality with volunteers on hand each Sunday to help with event information, sign-ups, payments, answering questions, etc. Be sure to check out this resource if you have questions and to stay up to date on events and activities happening at Kountze Memorial. If you’d like to volunteer to help at the Welcome Desk, please contact Ian (402-341-7761 or ian@kmlchurch.org). Amanda Zasada and Sheri Tipton are also available if you need help on Sunday mornings in the church office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS & ETERNAL CANDLE** If you would like to provide altar flowers or the eternal candle in honor or memory of someone or some special event, please put your name on the flower chart in the Narthex by the drinking fountain. Altar flowers are \$20 and the eternal candle is \$7.50.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** Are you interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church? Or do you know someone who has expressed an interest in learning more? If so, please let us know on the registration card in your bulletin and we’ll let you know when the next class will take place. The next class will be held on February 12 & 19 from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served. If you have questions, please talk to one of our Pastors. We look forward to hearing from you.

**E-NEWS AND E-NEWSLETTER** If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the membership card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

**TODAY AT KOUNTZE**

**KOUNTZE CAFÉ** Join us for a hot, breakfast buffet each Sunday served from 8-11:00 AM prepared by Chef Tim and his volunteers. The suggested donation for breakfast is, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM.

**THIS WEEK:** Consecration Sunday Breakfast **NEXT WEEK:** Advent Gathering

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** This is the last Sunday we will provide a list of Kountze members serving in the military along with Christmas cards on a table in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that you select a few cards, write your greetings &/or messages, and return the cards to the same table. We will be sure that they are mailed and received in time for Christmas!

**YOUNG MOTHERS** Join us on Sunday mornings for some fresh brewed fun in the Fellowship Lounge between worship services for “Frappy Hour.” Come meet other young mothers in the congregation for coffee, conversation, fellowship and fun. For more information, contact Meeghan Hartfield at ma\_hartfield@yahoo.com or call 402-212-8145.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** this Sunday, 11/20, 10-11 AM in the Fellowship Lounge. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge to parishioners on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God in honor of Lynn Schneiderman’s birthday.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for children 2 years—8<sup>th</sup> grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8<sup>th</sup> grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

**HIGH SCHOOL FORUM** This week we’ll be in the Fellowship Hall for Consecration brunch but join us next week in the Youth Center at 10 AM.

**“Why? 'Cause we're thankful!**

All members encouraged to make their commitment to support of Jesus' ministry through our congregation and the whole church.

**Everyone is invited to join us immediately following each service to celebrate Consecration Weekend.**

Jesus is our King of Kings. He has come to rule in our lives forever



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Table with 3 columns: Day, Bible Reference, and Theme. Rows include Sunday (Luke 23:33-43, Christ the crucified king), Monday (Colossians 1:11-20, The person and work of Christ), Tuesday (Luke 19:28-38, Blessed is the king), Wednesday (John 18:33-39, Jesus questioned by Pilate), Thursday (Revelation 19:11-16, King of kings, Lord of lords), Friday (Matthew 2:1-6, The one born king), Saturday (Psalm 24, The king of glory comes), and Sunday (Matthew 24:36-44, The sudden coming of salvation).

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son. And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God. Colossians 1:19-20 (CEV)

**SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

O Lord Jesus, King of kings, teach us to forgive as you forgive. Amen. (Luke 23:34)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord of lords and King of kings, to you our thanks and praise we bring. For health and food and all you give, for every moment that we live. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God make you patient and strong, so that you never give up. Amen. (Colossians 1:11)

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Talk about a difficult time you have experienced.
- The prophets of the Old Testament as well as Jesus knew that our faith would be tested through difficult times. Talk about how God has been with you during tough times.
- In Luke 21:5-19, Jesus says that his followers will experience trials and persecution. How has enduring a difficult time been a witness to your faith?

**DEVOTIONS**

Use this simple liturgy based on Colossians 1:12-14. Give each person a candle. Put another candle on the table. This candle will be called the "Christ candle," and it represents Christ as the Light of the World. Dim lights to darken your devotional area.

Leader: **We were under the power of darkness. But, God sent Jesus the Light into the world to save us.** (Light the Christ candle)

All: **God brought us into the kingdom of Jesus, his Son. We now belong to the kingdom of light.** (The other candles are lit from the Christ candle)

Leader: Jesus has paid for our sins and through him we are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Close by praying or singing "Christ, Be Our Light" by Bernadette Farrell. (The song can be found on YouTube.)

**SERVICE**

**As this Church year ends, plan to say thank you to those in the church who have served you in God's name—pastors, lay ministry staff, church leaders, musicians, program leaders, and others.**

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

This is the last week of the Church year. Next Sunday, we enter Advent. Share memories of your involvement in the church this past year. What were some highlights? What did you learn? In what ways did you grow spiritually? Whom did you get to know better? Whom were you blessed by or through? Share your hopes for your involvement in the church in the coming year. Say a prayer of thanks for your church and for God's work in and through it over the last twelve months.

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**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE** Wednesday, 11/23, 7 PM. Join us for Worship! All are welcome.

**THANKSGIVING MEAL** Thursday, 11/24, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM at St Peter Catholic Church (northeast corner of 28th and Leavenworth). For those in need and missing family. Enjoy fellowship and a free meal including: Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, and dessert.

If you are able to volunteer or provide pies, please complete the bulletin insert in the Sunday bulletin and place it in the offering plate. This meal is sponsored by Kountze Memorial Lutheran and Saint Peter Catholic Churches.

**ADVENT GATHERING** Sunday, 11/27, 10 AM - 1 PM. All Kountze children, youth, friends and families are welcome. Activities will include Advent wreath making, crafts, ornaments, music, devotions, and more! A light lunch will also be served.

**ALTERNATIVE GIFTS** Advent is a time of preparation for the gift of love incarnate with the birth of Jesus Christ. As you and your family think about your personal preparations, please consider giving Alternative Gifts offered here at Kountze. A table will be set up during the Forum time on each of the Sundays in Advent and also in the Narthex for the Saturday evening services on 12/3 & 17. This is your chance to give a gift that truly makes a difference to people here in Omaha and around the world. The prices for these gifts start at \$6.

**ADVENT MEALS/WORSHIP** Wednesdays, 11/ 30, 12/7, 14, 21. Dinner will be served from 6-7 PM and Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM.

**CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING** Saturday, 12/17, 5:00 PM (prelude begins at 4:40 PM) with a reception following. A free-will offering will be taken and nursery care will be provided. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with singing and worshipful reflection. Journey to the manger through beautiful scripture readings, sacred poetry, congregational singing and special musical offerings from the Kountze choirs, handbells, brass, woodwinds, strings, harp and more. We look forward to this opportunity to gather together to welcome the birth of Jesus! Please join us in the blessed gifts of the Eucharist, word and song! There is something for everyone. Come to our table and purchase your Alternative Gifts!

**KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS** This week we need: beef stew, canned chicken, Spam, spaghetti/pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, oatmeal, and canned fruit. Your time and monetary offerings are always welcome as well. Please talk to JP if you have questions. Thanks.

**THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE**

**November 20 Sunday**

- Consecration Weekend
- 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
- 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
- 10:10 AM Consecration Brunch
- 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
- 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
- 10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
- 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
- 12:00 PM Consecration Brunch
- 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
- 7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study
- 9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**November 21 Monday**

- 10:00 AM Pantry

**November 22 Tuesday**

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 5:30 PM Executive Committee
- 6:30 PM Council

**November 23 Wednesday**

- 12:15 PM Worship
- 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship

**November 24 Thursday**

- Thanksgiving
- OFFICE CLOSED
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peter's

**November 25 Friday**

- OFFICE CLOSED
- 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

**November 26 Saturday**

- 9:00 AM Decorate for Christmas
- 3:00 PM Phelps Wedding
- 5:00 PM Worship

**November 27 Sunday**

- 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
- 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
- 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
- 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Advent Gathering (no Sun. School)
- 10:10 AM Adult Forum—Advent Gathering
- 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
- 10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
- 9:00 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

**Next Weekend's Lessons**  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

**Saturday Attendance:** 44  
**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 276 11:00: 166  
**Midweek - Noon:** 8 **Confirmation:** Service Event  
**Total:** 494  
**Pantry Guests Served:** 357 (273 Adults — 84 Children)  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 48  
**Offering:**  
\$21,222.50 (Regular) \$4,592.00 (Specials)  
\$6,001.33 (In the City for Good)