

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 H. Moessner, Interim Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

May 14, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER



As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

PRELUDE

Jesus is Lord

Guy Ratcliffe, Arr.
Kountze Handbell Choir

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ ***Amen.***

☞ God of all mercy and consolation,

☞ ***come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

☞ Most merciful God,

☞ ***we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

☞ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ ***Amen.***

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

ELW 378

GREETING

☞ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

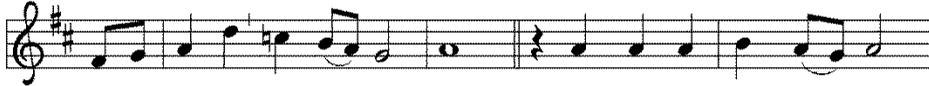
☞ ***And also with you.***

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

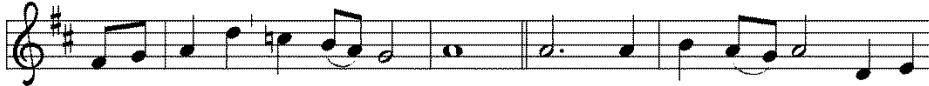


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



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



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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



Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ ***your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

MUSICAL OFFERING

Day by Day & Thy Holy Wings

Jane McFadden, Arr.
Kountze Handbell Choir

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

Psalm 31:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- ²Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.
- ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.
- ⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength. **R**
- ⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.
- ¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love." **R**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G *Glory to you, O Lord.*

GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P The Gospel of our Lord

G *Praise to you, O Christ.*

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th 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

Pastor Bard

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Sing with All the Saints in Glory

ELW 426

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (9:00 AM)

We Welcome: Jim Brand; Michael, Emily, Grayson, & Ainsley Christensen; William & Madaline Christensen; Matthew Friesner; Tim, Kristen, & Langston Snyder

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)

Paisley Ann Bailes

(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 Paisley Ann Bailes, daughter of Cory & Courtney

Illness: David Carlsen, Carl Englert, Dee Hiatt, Norman How (father of Suzanne How), Ruth Larsen, Dee Luchsinger, Joyce Wachal, Vernon Ward, Joanne Worm

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, 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

Come Now and Follow Me

Don Besig and Nancy Price

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184

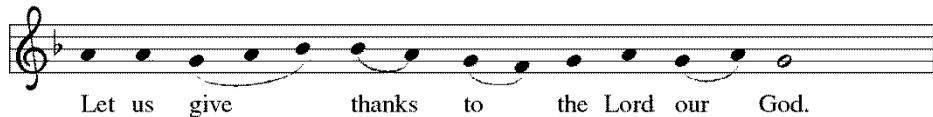
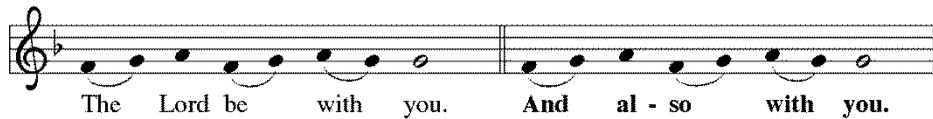
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Be known to us, O Lord,
☑ ***in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.***

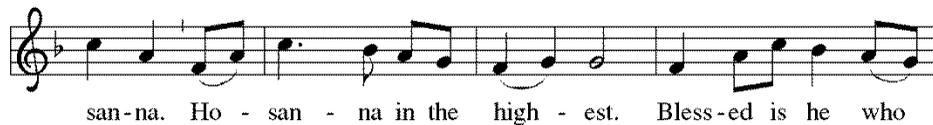
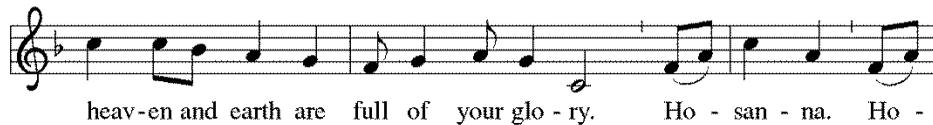
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



(The Thanksgiving continues)

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

SANCTUS



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☞ *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

- ☞ Now let us feast this Easter day
☞ *on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!*

(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.

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee
I Received the Living God*

ELW 759
ELW 477

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Life-giving God,
G *in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.*

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
G *Amen.*

HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389

DISMISSAL

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
G *Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!*
P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
G *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

† † †

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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 nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

WORSHIP ✦ GROW ✦ SERVE



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
Kristin Boe	Interim Christian Education Coordinator
Dave Forrest	Interim Congregational Life Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
John Bogue	Building Superintendent
Tim Walker	Chef
Søren Johnson	Assist. Bldg. Superintendent
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Danny Bos	Handbell Director/Assist. to the Bldg. Superintendent
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.	Jeff Perkins Liz Pemberton
Lector	Don Darst
Ushers	Brad Madison Donna Crouse Ralph Diggins Dick Nelson Rodney Nord Dan Troxel Sharon West Dean Winther Bob Johnson
Greeters	Colleen Lenners Bev Troxel Lois Sorensen Carole Meilahan
Crucifer	Angie Arispe
Acolytes	Cameron Miller Rahn Johnson

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum Deb Hinrichs
Lector	Ashley Sum
Ushers	Linda Hoagland David Jesberg Adam Klinker Kathy Preininger
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Nicole Campbell
Acolytes	Charlie Campbell Grace Penrod

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 not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. 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, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet 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 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 All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held sometime this fall from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office and let us know if you will need childcare. Watch the bulletin for specific dates.

PARKING Our west parking lot is closed for total renovation. Parking is available in front of deFreese Manor, Douglas & 26th Avenue, Barnhart Press' gravel lot across Farnam Street, side streets east of the church, FBG parking lot at 26th & Harney.

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 card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us on Sundays for a hot, breakfast buffet served from 8-11 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: Special Congregational Meeting **NEXT WEEK:** Welcome New Members/ Congregational Meeting/Meet our Newest Staff Members

YOUNG MOTHERS Join us on Sunday morning 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS New members will be received into the congregation this Sunday, 5/14, at 9 AM, followed by a special reception at Adult Forum in Fellowship Hall at 10:10 AM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by John and Lynn Schneiderman in honor of their 29th wedding anniversary; in memory of Mom, Ruth, by Karen and Shirley Bonneau

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

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

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center for Forum at 10 AM.

KMLC MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, 5/18, 11:30 AM at Kountze Memorial. Cost: \$10. We'll welcome Joyce “JP” Palmer, Kountze Urban Ministry Coordinator, who will give a talk on our current food pantry and clinic activities and also highlight changes in store for these outreach programs with the opening of Kountze Commons. Please RSVP by Monday, 5/15 at noon, to the church office or Dave Forrest (402-341-7761 or dave@kmlchurch.org). Hope to see you there.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP Saturday, 5/20, 9:30 AM. The Prayer Group has chosen to study the book, “Before Amen” by Max Lucado. If you are interested in joining the Women's Prayer Group, contact Karen Bonneau at 402-451-3817. The group meets monthly on the third Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Lounge.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Sunday, 5/21, 10—11 AM in the Fellowship Lounge. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge to parishioners on the 1st

Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.

GRADUATE BLESSING & CELEBRATION We will celebrate our 2017 graduates at the 9 AM service on Sunday, 5/21, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. As in years past, the seniors will be blessed and presented with the gift of a quilt made by our sewing group. We are very proud of our graduates, and ask God's rich blessing on them as they enter into a new chapter in their young lives.

JOINT ASCENSION DAY EUCHARIST Thursday, 5/25, 7 PM at Kountze Memorial. We are hosting Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in our third annual combined celebration of the culmination of Jesus' earthly ministry, when he is taken up bodily into heaven. This year, we welcome special guests: Bishop Brian Maas of the Nebraska Synod will preside and Bishop Scott Barker of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska will preach. Join us as we celebrate this great feast of the Church, our common heritage, and the full-communion agreement between our

We are a chosen people.



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.

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Proverbs 10:27-32	The way of the Lord
Tuesday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
Wednesday	John 18:28-38	Jesus and Pilate speak of truth
Thursday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Steven
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	Growing as God's people
Saturday	Psalms 31	A prayer for protection
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But you are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done. **1 Peter 2:9 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please help us to walk in your way, hold to your truth, and live with your power. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for the blessings of this day, for food to eat with spoon, fork, and knife. May we have the faith to walk your way, full of your peace and truth and life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

As God's chosen race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, may God bless you in the way of Jesus, the truth of Jesus, and life in his name.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- When have you been chosen for special recognition?
- What difference does it make that God has chosen you?
- When Jesus says that he is the way, he emphasizes a relationship to him that leads his followers to do the works that Jesus does in the world, and "even greater things" will be done by Jesus' disciples (John 14:6, 12). What does it mean to be Christ to the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 7:55-60.

Terullian, an early church father stated, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church." That is, those who have witnessed to the faith with their lives have led to the growth of the church. The martyrdom of St. Stephen is just such an example. His gruesome death by stoning led to the exodus of the church from Jerusalem to "Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). His death led to a movement out of Jerusalem that helped fulfill what the resurrected Lord said to the disciples before his ascension. Take a moment to wonder how times of suffering have produced growth and new life for you and for the body of Christ. Close by praying the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

People sometimes resist the idea that Christians are a chosen people because it suggests a level of privilege others do not get. However, in the Old and New Testament, being elected (chosen) is about the mission that is given to the elected. In 1 Peter 2:9, to be the "chosen race" means being a "holy nation," that is, a people set apart to serve: to "tell all the wonderful things that he has done." Offer prayers for missionaries around the globe, including mission starts in your own community. Consider how you are part of the outreach work of the church.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Sunday is Mother's Day. Take time to recognize mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and all women who have helped you grow and develop over the years. At a meal or other occasion with family and/or friends take turns saying, "Lord God, I am thankful for (her name) because . . ."

Conclude with the following prayer, "Lord God, thank you for the gift of mothers and all women who have made a difference in our lives, including (names). For the care that they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen."

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THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

May 14 Sunday

- Mother's Day
- 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)
- 9:00 AM Receive New Members
- 10:10 AM Adult Forum
- 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
- 10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
- 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

May 15 Monday

- Good News Deadline
- 10:00 AM Pantry

May 16 Tuesday

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
- 5:00 PM Building Committee

May 17 Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Worship
- 5:00 PM Communion @ deFreese Manor
- 5:30 PM KETV Management Board

May 18 Thursday

- 11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
- 7:00 PM Circle 5

May 19 Friday

- 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

May 20 Saturday

- 3:30 PM Freidel/Anderson Wedding
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 5:00 PM Worship

May 21 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 Graduate Blessing & Celebration
- 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
- 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
- 10:10 AM Adult Forum
- 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
- 10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
- 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
- 7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study

Next Weekend's Lessons	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
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Saturday Attendance: 47
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 217 11:00: 110
Midweek - Noon: 9 **Evening:** 0
Total: 383
Pantry Guests Served: 298
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 46
Offering:
 \$12,393.54 (Regular) \$2,360.00 (Specials)
 \$1,859.00 (In the City for Good)

(Continued from page 1)
denominations. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow.

MAY IS BLINDNESS PREVENTION MONTH Kountze will once again be collecting used eyeglasses. The glasses will be cleaned, checked and used at a health fair for the homeless later this year. There is

a collection box at the Welcome Desk. Thank you for your help with this outreach program.

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, 6/11 at 12:00 PM. We will meet in the church office conference room, and then Pr. Hall will lead the participants to the Nave to walk through the liturgy. To register, please call the church office at 402-341-7761.

19th ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING AND JAZZ SERVICE Sunday, 6/25. Join us for Jazz Music, Carriage Rides, Free Food, Inflatables, Carnival Games, Face Painting, Balloons, and more! We'll need your help to make the day a success, so watch the bulletin for sign-up sheets so you can let us know how you can help.