

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, 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

September 24, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ☐ Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.
- ☑ **Amen.**
- ☐ Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- ☐ Source of all life,
- ☑ ***we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.***
- ☐ God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ☑ **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

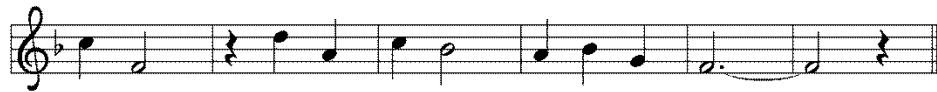
GREETING

- ☐ 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



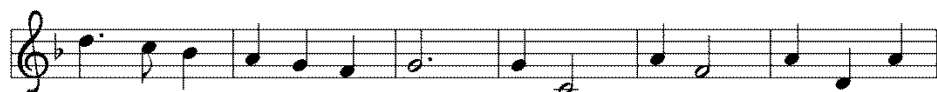
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



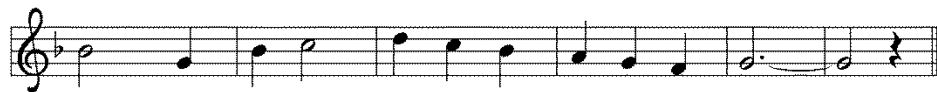
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



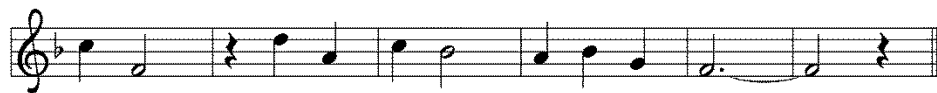
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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



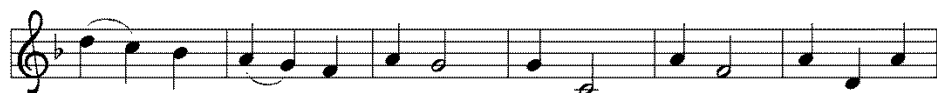
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



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

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty and eternal God,
 ☑ ***you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

(sit)

WORD

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The Lord GOD appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should

I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

A The word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:1-8



Psalm 145:8

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

May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ²Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
- ³Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
- ⁴One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power. **R**
- ⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.
- ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- ⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21–30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, 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.

☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

Jesus says “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

☞ The Gospel of our Lord

☞ **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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694

APOSTLES' CREED

☩ *I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

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)

Illness: Pauline Brager, Eunice Grunberg, Susie Henry, Dee Hiatt, Virginia Jensen, Bob Jones
(father of Allison Albright)

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; 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

Grace Alone

Tom Fettke

(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

- ☞ God of life,
- ☞ ***you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

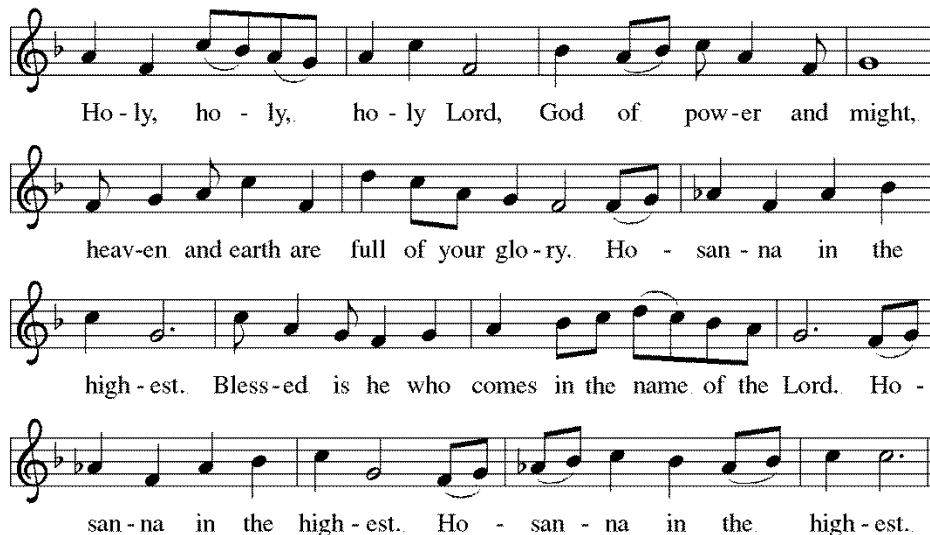
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

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

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

- ☐ Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
☑ *and make us one with you.*

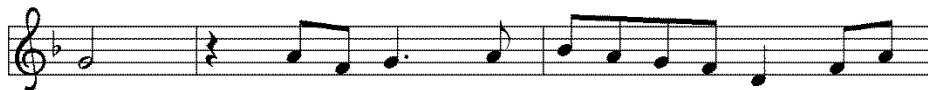
(sit)

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.

*Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 750
ELW 359

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Holy and compassionate God,
- ☑ ***in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.***

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ Almighty God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

HYMN

You Servants of God

ELW 825

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Sound the good news.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.



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. Olaf Roynesdal | Senior Pastor |
| Pr. Paul Moessner | Interim Associate Pastor |
| Pr. Ashley Hall | Associate Pastor |
| Pr. Inba Inbarasu | Visitation Pastor |
| Kristin Boe | Interim Christian Education Coordinator |
| Debbie Bogue | Office Manager |
| Amanda Zasada | Administrative Assistant |
| Lauri Askew | Staff Treasurer |
| Sheri Rose | Financial Secretary |
| Tim Walker | Chef |
| Søren Johnson | Assist. Bldg. Superintendent |
| Barbara Carlsen | Dir. of Music & Fine Arts |
| Donna Moessner | Director of Children's Music |
| 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. | Scott Henneman
Norm Sack
Lowell Harms |
| Lector | Ruth Henneman |
| Ushers | Glenn Anderson
Dan Collett
Ted Kaasch
Mark Mahaffey
Gary Westerman
Bob Woodworth
Marcy Madison |
| Greeters | Sharon Anderson
Karen Wolf
Shirleen Collett |
| Crucifer | Bailey Gittler |
| Acolytes | Carly Cameron
Clara Kidder |

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Comm. Asst. | Lowell Harms
June Anderson |
| Lector | Steve Hinrichs |
| Ushers | Adam Klinker
Linda Hoagland
Bryon Line |
| Greeters | Julie King
Rosemary Tessin |
| Crucifer | Torin Edwards |
| Acolytes | Abby Rigas
Rachel Stouffer |

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.

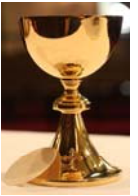
NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

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 January 14 & 21 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.

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: Youth Trip Review **NEXT WEEK:** New Building Update and Guided Tour

NEW MEMBER CLASS continues this Sunday, 9/24, at noon, with new members to be received 10/1. The next New Member class is set for 1/14 & 21, 2018. If you have questions, please talk to one of the Pastors. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided.

BAPTISM SEMINAR 12 PM this Sunday, 9/24. The next Baptism seminar will be held on Sunday, 11/19.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in honor of Erica Rief's birthday by Leigh and Vicki & Leigh Freeman

ETERNAL CANDLE is given to the Glory of God in memory of Don Wichert by wife, Vickie

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 10:10 AM.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHOIR rehearsal in the Adult Choir room each Sunday from 11—11:40 AM. Come and sing!

PANTRY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH Monday, 9/25, 1:30 PM. Pantry volunteers, please be sure to RSVP on the sheet by the volunteer sign-up book. We hope to see you there!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON BIBLICAL IMAGERY We will look at some of the rich images that pervade the Bible and what they mean. A six-week session. Come Mondays (beginning 9/25, 6 PM) or Wednesdays (beginning 9/27, 10:30 AM). Instructor: Dr. Sieling

TAIZÉ SERVICE @ ST. JOHN'S Monday, 9/28 at 8:15 PM in St. John's. It can be difficult to

set aside time to be quiet and present to the Lord with our busy schedules. Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Mantra songs (like "Jesus, Remember Me"), prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment. Services at Creighton last about 30-40 minutes and typically include a volume of the St. John's Bible. Everyone in the Creighton community and greater Omaha community is welcome!

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH It's here!! It's time for our Kountze version of Antiques Roadshow! Don't miss out on this spectacular event! Kountze member, Shayne Fili (CEO of Auction Solutions), will be here to lead our program. You are welcome to bring one item, whether it be old or just of interest, to learn a little something about it. Don't have an item to bring? You are still welcome to come and experience this once a year event. Tuesday, 10/3. A delicious Meatloaf lunch, with all the fixings, will be served at noon. Cost is \$4.00. Please RSVP by Fri. 9/29, to the church office. Any questions, call Sheri Tipton (402-415-6033). Absolutely ALL ages are welcome! See you there!

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Saturday, 10/7, 4:30-5:00 PM in the Bride's Room near Sanctuary. Trained volunteers provide blood pressure checks free of charge on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month.

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR ROYNESDAL will be held on Sunday, 10/8 at 3 PM, just prior to the dedication of Kountze Commons.

KOUNTZE COMMONS The dedication of Kountze Commons will be held Sunday, 10/8, at 3 PM in partnership with Methodist Community Health Clinic and Lutheran Family Services, our two major community partners and tenants of the building.

God's surprising generosity.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Table with 3 columns: Day, Bible Reference, and Description. Rows include Sunday (Matthew 20:1-16), Monday (Jonah 3:10-4:11), Tuesday (1 Timothy 6:17-19), Wednesday (Ephesians 1:3-14), Thursday (Titus 3:3-7), Friday (John 1:14-18), Saturday (Psalm 145), and Sunday (Matthew 21:23-32).

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?" Matthew 20:15 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week: Lord, you are so generous to us. Help us to be generous to others. Amen. (Matthew 20:1-16)

Mealttime Prayer: God so generous, God so good, we thank you for our daily food. Bless our meal and with us stay, guide and keep us through this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give: May the God of steadfast love and mercy, bless you and fill you with a spirit of generosity.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

- Discuss in your home or small group:
- When have you received the benefit of another person's kindness or generosity that you didn't think you deserved? Explain.
- When have you been jealous when someone else received more help or benefits than you did? Explain.
- Read Matthew 20:1-16. Should we be angry if we sense that God is being generous to others? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jonah 3:10-4:11. Jonah was called by God to have the people of Nineveh repent. Jonah saw these people as an enemy of Israel and loathsome. He tried to run away from God's calling but was not successful. Jonah knew that God was a merciful and gracious God, "slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing" (4:2b). Jonah preferred to die than to witness God's mercy to Nineveh. Who is a personal or national enemy that you do not want God to show mercy toward? Can you imagine how distasteful it is for God to show kindness in that situation? Pray the following prayer:

Dear God, I thank you for your constant love and mercy for me. Help me to rejoice at your kindness and mercy for others. Amen.

SERVICE

In Jonah and in Matthew 30, we are presented with God's kindness and generosity that goes beyond what seems reasonable or right. They are examples of God's ways being far different than our ways (Isaiah 55:8). Practice kindness that may go beyond your comfort level. Do an act of kindness for someone you do not like or believe deserves your generosity. Reflect on and discuss with someone how that deed made you feel and what it means to have a God who goes beyond what seems right and good.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Throughout the week, prayerfully recite the following verse: "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 145:8).

© 2013 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved. Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries. Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

(continued from page 1)

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS Sunday, 10/15, 12 PM. We encourage children and youth to attend a First Communion Class prior to receiving the sacrament. The classes are held twice a year, one during lent and one just prior to Reformation Sunday at the end of October. Often children in second grade participate in these classes, but a good rule of thumb to determine if the "time is right" is to consider whether your child is curious about participating in the Sacrament. In either case, please contact the pastors and church staff if you have any questions or would like more information. Those participating will receive their First Communion on Reformation Sunday, 10/29. Please register by calling the church office (402-341-7761).

PUMPKIN PATCH Save the date! On 10/15, between 4-6 PM, Kountze members and their families are invited to Wenninghoff's Pumpkin Patch for fun and fellowship. Bring your lawn chairs and circle up around the fire pit to roast hot dogs and marshmallows. Then, enjoy the petting zoo, bean bag toss, stuff a scarecrow, and more. Hayrack rides provided. Admission is \$7 per person. KMLC will provide hot dogs, chips, beverages, and s'mores. Please RSVP to the church office (402-341-7761) by 10/13. Wenninghoff's Pumpkin Patch is located at 6707 Wenninghoff Rd, in Omaha. We can't wait to see you there!

METRO-OMAHA COMMEMORATION OF 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION The Nebraska Synod and Western Iowa Synod will co-host a Lutheran Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a Festive Eucharist at St. John's Roman Catholic parish (Creighton University) at 2 PM, Sunday, 10/29. Reception to follow. Invite a friend! Registration for the event opened on 9/15 and can be found on the Nebraska Synod website. A link will be available in the Wednesday e-news.

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

- September 24 Sunday
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
12:00 PM Baptism Seminar
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
12:00 PM New Member Class
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)
September 25 Monday
10:00 AM Pantry
1:30 PM Pantry Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
6:00 PM Bible Study on Biblical Imagery
September 26 Tuesday
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3
September 27 Wednesday
10:30 AM Bible Study on Biblical Imagery
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM KETV Management Board
6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
6:30 PM Confirmation
7:30 PM Closing Worship
September 28 Thursday
1:30 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
8:15 PM Taizé Service @ St. John's (Creighton)
September 29 Friday
6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal
September 30 Saturday
Homebound Communion
9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)
3:00 PM Fonda/Shively Wedding
5:00 PM Worship
October 1 Sunday
Homebound Communion
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
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 Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
11:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

Table with 2 columns: Next Weekend's Lessons and Bible References. Row 1: Next Weekend's Lessons, Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16.

Saturday Attendance: 46
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 227 11:00: 114
Midweek - Noon: 7 Evening: 26
Total: 420
Pantry Guests Served: 387
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 42
Offering: Not available at time of printing