

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

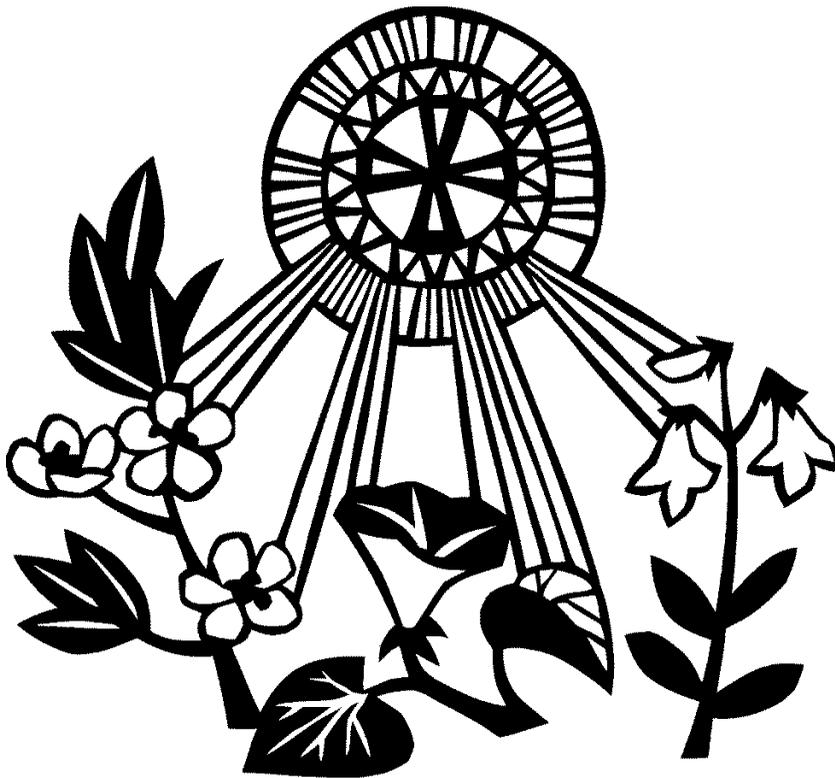
Dean W. Bard, Interim Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Interim Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

May 21, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER



"Where are we going?" ...the child asks as the family scrambles to the car. ... the young adult (or the parents of) ask at graduation time. ...the adult asks as the number of remaining years diminishes. ...a society asks, because things just are not the same as we expect, as we remember, as we try to remember what we had expected.

In the cycle of the Church year, based on the life and ministry of Jesus, we are advancing from Resurrection to Ascension. Our readings challenge us to ask, for myself personally, for us as congregation, community and, indeed, for all humanity: Are we walking with our Lord Jesus into God's preferred and promised future, the destination, the destiny God has prepared for us?

PRELUDE

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

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

GREETING

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

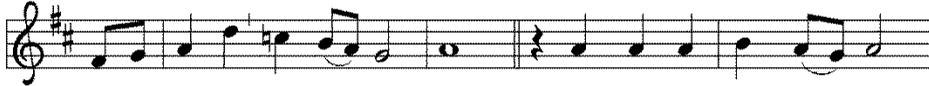
☞ ***And also with you.***

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

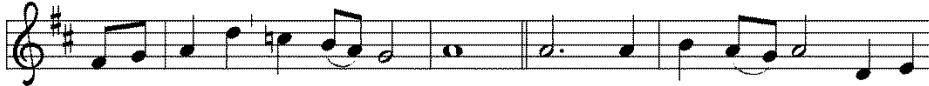


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



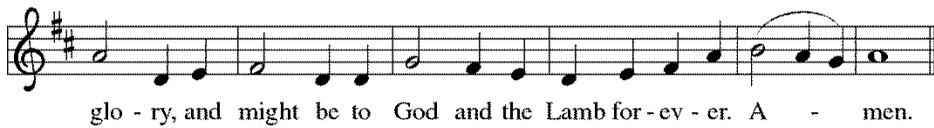
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



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,

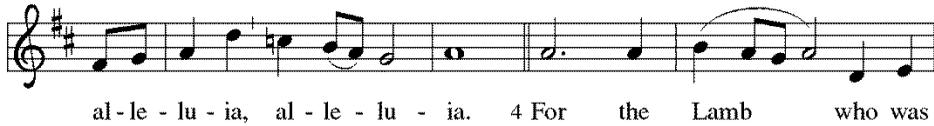


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

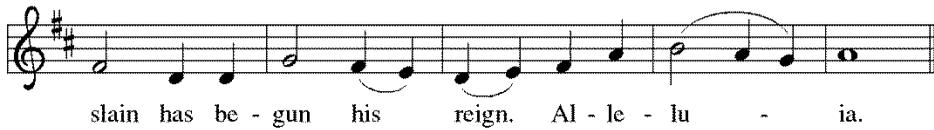
Refrain



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 and ever-living God,
- ☑ **you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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

Acts 17:22-31

We continue reading in the Acts of the Apostles – we could also call this the Acts of the Holy Spirit. The Areopagus in ancient Athens was viewed as the epitome of human knowledge. The Holy Spirit has led the Apostle Paul to this place and has opened his eyes to the many ways humans try to secure their view of the future, for that is what a god is really. He appeals to a common, human sense of origin and destiny, quoting their own poets. The verses following this section tell us that when he talked about Resurrection some scoffed. Other indicated they might be willing to hear more. Writing about this encounter, St. Luke had said, perhaps with a bit of sarcasm, that “the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.” When are we too close-minded? When are we called, with open-minds, to make a commitment? What was Saint Paul’s assessment of this experience? “... for God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom...” 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

A The word of the Lord.

G *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 66:8-20



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Psalm 66:8

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

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⁸Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹Our God has kept us among the living

and has not allowed our feet to slip. **R**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;

you have tried us just as silver is tried.
¹¹You brought us into the net;
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
¹³I will enter your house with burnt offerings
 and will pay you my vows—
¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
 and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
 I will give you oxen and goats. 

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
 and I will tell you what God has done for me.
¹⁷I called out to God with my mouth,
 and praised the Lord with my tongue.
¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
 the Lord would not have heard me;
¹⁹but in truth God has heard me
 and has attended to the sound of my prayer.
²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
 nor withheld unfailing love from me. 

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

Does God inflict suffering? The phrase, “if suffering should be God’s will”, raises so many questions. But what is really going on when we do what is right yet everything turns out wrong? The Apostle is writing to people who want to follow Christ’s Way. Yet for whatever reason, they are in some way suffering because of it. The message of Cross and Resurrection promises, that while humans may intend to inflict suffering, God is able to, and desires to, transform suffering into a life giving experience.

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

 The word of the Lord.

 **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.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

We are reading Jesus' words, given to his disciples the night before his crucifixion, sort of like a farewell address. The Gospel of John does not conclude with a final earthly appearance or with the Ascension. It is almost as if Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension are one (see John 12:31-32). Thus, we can hear these words from Jesus as addressed to all his followers, in all times and in all places, including us.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

☐ 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 Moessner

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

ELW 360

BLESSING OF GRADUATES (9:00 AM)

(see insert)

High School: Nicholas Barrett, Melanie Bratcher, Joshua Burt, Courtney Cameron, Madison Duffield, Bailey Gittler, Maggie Hiatt, Kai Johnson, Soren Johnson, Dante Jones, Morgan Stouffer

College: Victoria Anderson

APOSTLES' CREED (11:00 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.***

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** 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: 2017 High School and College Graduates; for the marriage of Tyler Anderson & Allysa Freidel

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

P 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

If You Love Me

Thomas Tallis

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184

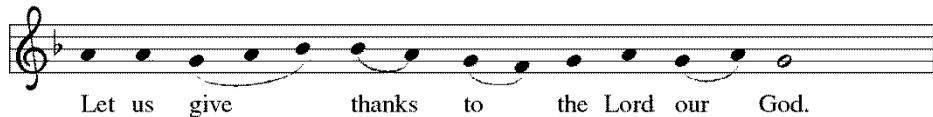
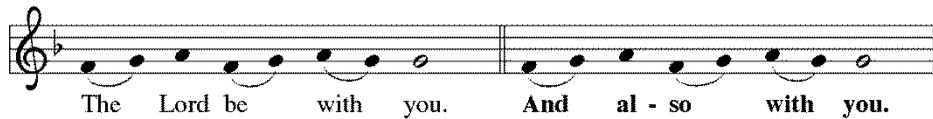
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us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

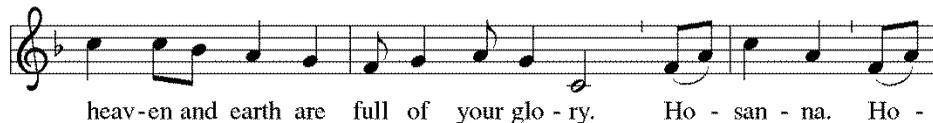
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



(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.

*Lord, Be Glorified
I Come with Joy*

ELW 744
ELW 482

(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

We Are Called

ELW 720

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

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.

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. Scott Henneman, Lowell Harms, Dan Collett
Lector Jan Falk
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 Carter Wachholtz
Acolytes Clara Kidder, Kenyon Martis

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. June Anderson, Norm Sack
Lector Bruce Anderson
Ushers Linda Hoagland, David Jesberg, Adam Klinker
Greeters Barb Chrisman, Jo Kayton
Crucifer Nick Barrett
Acolytes Anna Kotula, Lily O'Kane

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. **NEXT WEEK:** A continental breakfast will be served.

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

THIS WEEK: Reception for 2017 graduates **NEXT WEEK:** No Forum (Memorial Day)

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.

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.

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.

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. Please let us know if there are any graduates we have missed.

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

This Sunday, join us in the Fellowship Hall for a reception honoring our 2017 graduates.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP VIDEOS 2012—2016 If you went on a Youth Mission Trip in the years 2012—2016, we have a trip video for you in the church office. Please come and pick it/them up at your earliest convenience.

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 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

The Holy Spirit is our helper.



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 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul preaches in Athens
Tuesday	John 16:5-16	The work of the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	1 John 4:13-21	God has given us the Spirit
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	The ascension of Jesus
Friday	Luke 24:44-53	Christ present in all times and places
Saturday	Psalms 66	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true.” **John 14:16-17 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us each day. May the Spirit walk with us so that we may believe in you and do the work that you would have us do. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

We thank you God, three-in-one, for these gifts from earth and sun. May praise and honor be said and sung, to the Father, Spirit, and Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who has been helpful to you? In what ways have you been of help to others?
- In John 14 Jesus promises the Holy Spirit who is called the Helper or Counselor, one who would walk with Jesus’ followers. How does the Spirit walk with you so that you may believe in Jesus?
- How would you like the Holy Spirit to help you today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 17:22-31.

Paul is in Athens speaking to people who do not know Jesus. Paul addresses them by connecting with the Greek culture he sees around him. He commends them for their search for God. He quotes Greek poetry to connect his message with their longings for God. The Christian faith has always been a world religion that seeks to connect with local languages and cultures to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. From its beginnings, the message of the gospel has been translated from the language of the Old Testament (Hebrew) and the language of Jesus (Aramaic). It is a humbling and demanding challenge to communicate the gospel into contemporary languages and cultures. Reflect on how you share your faith in today’s world. Pray for the work of the church to speak and work faithfully with the many cultures of the world.

SERVICE

Jesus told his disciples, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:18). Think about those around you, whether at school, work, neighborhood, or home, who may feel alone. Reach out to them with love and care.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Thursday (May 25) is Ascension Day. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday. This day marks the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection. In Acts 1:9 it states that Jesus ascended into a cloud. Clouds represent a biblical image for the presence of God. Go outside to see if there are any clouds. If so, notice what shapes you can find. There is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God. Say these words,

“Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!”.

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so you can let us know how you can help.

BAPTISM SEMINAR Sunday, 6/11, 12 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 (402-341-7761).

KOUNTZE PANTRY Pork ‘n Beans, Pasta/Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal, Corn, Pancake Syrup, Chicken, Tuna. Your time and monetary offerings are always welcome as well. Please talk to JP if you have questions. Thanks.

STEPHEN MINISTRY **What does Stephen Ministry provide?** Someone who cares, supports, listens, shares. **Who can benefit?** Anyone going through difficult times who needs someone to care, listen, and share God’s love with them on a one-to-one confidential basis. **Want to know more?** Contact Donna Reinig (402-558-6352) or one of our pastors.

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

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

May 22 Monday

- 10:00 AM Pantry

May 23 Tuesday

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 7:00 PM Circle 3
- 5:30 PM Executive Committee
- 6:30 PM Church Council

May 24 Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Worship
- 5:30 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal

May 25 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord

- 1:30 PM Circle 4
- 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
- 7:00 PM Ascension Day Liturgy at Kountze

May 26 Friday

- 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

May 27 Saturday

- 3:00 PM Musick/Klug Wedding
- 5:00 PM Worship

May 28 Sunday

- 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
- 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
- 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
- 10:10 AM No Adult Forum
- 10:10 AM No Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
- 10:10 AM Young Mothers “Frappy Hour”
- 10:10 AM No Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
- 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

Next Weekend’s Lessons	Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11
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Saturday Attendance: 53
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 240 11:00: 148
Midweek - Noon: 9 **Evening:** 0
Total: 441
Pantry Guests Served: 319
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 30

Who: Heroes grades Kindergarten through 8th
What: Summer Sunday School "Hero Central"
When: June 2 - July 16
10:00 to 10:50 (Hero Headquarters are closed July 2)
Where: Hero Headquarters are located in Rm. 205
Why: To "Do good! See peace and go after it!"
Psalm 34:14b

KMLC invites all children to the Summer Sunday School Session, "Hero Central". We will go on a hero's adventure that includes energetic music, Bible fun, amazing science experiments, delicious snacks, games, crafts and more! Each week we will learn, then explore the Bible verse Psalm 34:14b, "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" in fun and exciting ways that will be sure to stay with your child through the week.