

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

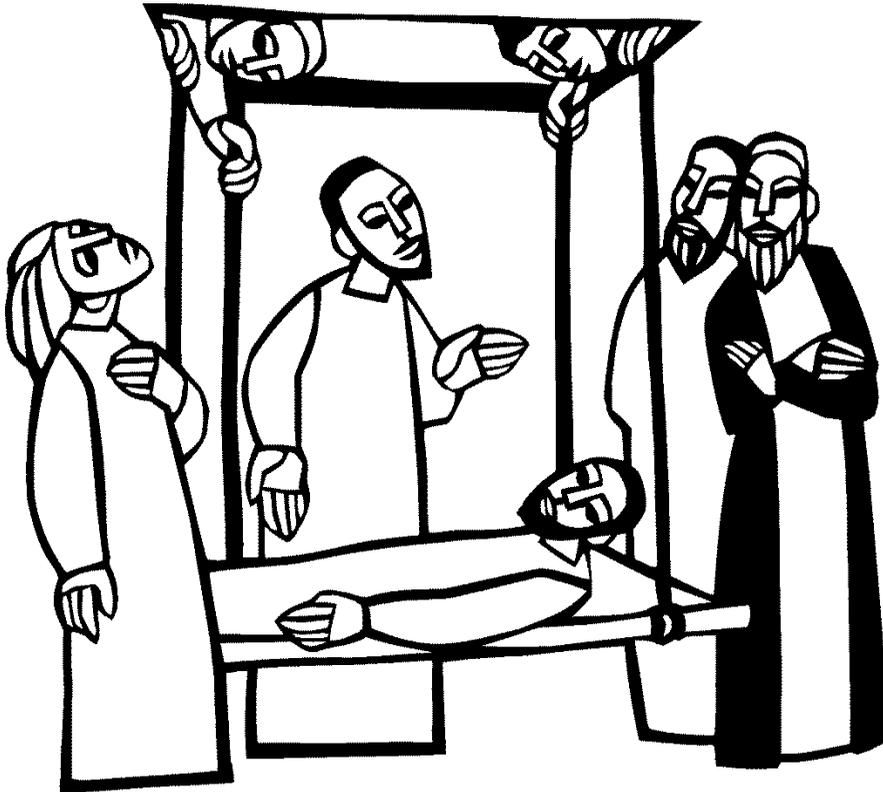
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Paul H. Moessner, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

February 4, 2018

9:00 & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick to health and service (diakonia). Like the paralyzed man, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way
to follow our own ways.

Forgive us for the times

we have spoken or acted too quickly;

we have not spoken or acted at all;

we have hurt those closest to us;

we have hurt those we have yet to know;

we have thought more about ourselves than others;

we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,

so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of † Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

ELW 767

Verse 1: All

Verse 2: Men

Verse 3: All

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

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, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



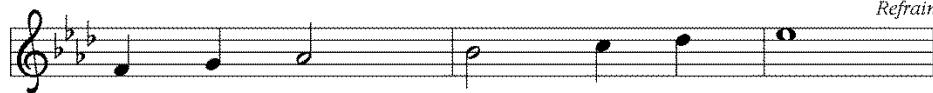
Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Everlasting God,
☑ **you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

“*Psalm 100*”

K. Potter
Kountze Youth Choir

Shout for joy to God all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs. Alleluia!

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

Oh praise him!
Oh praise him!
Oh praise him!

Oh praise him! Alleluia!

Shout for joy to God all the earth!
For the Lord is good his love endures forever!
His faithfulness continues through all generations!
Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth! Alleluia!

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21–31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

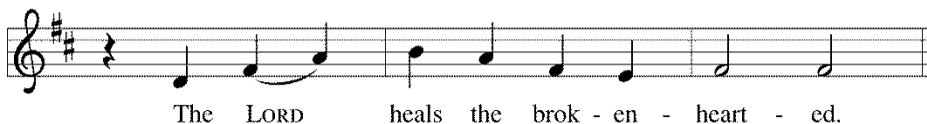
Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and

numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “*My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God?*” ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1–11, 20c



Psalm 147:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names. 

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow upon the mountains. 

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. Hallelujah! 

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

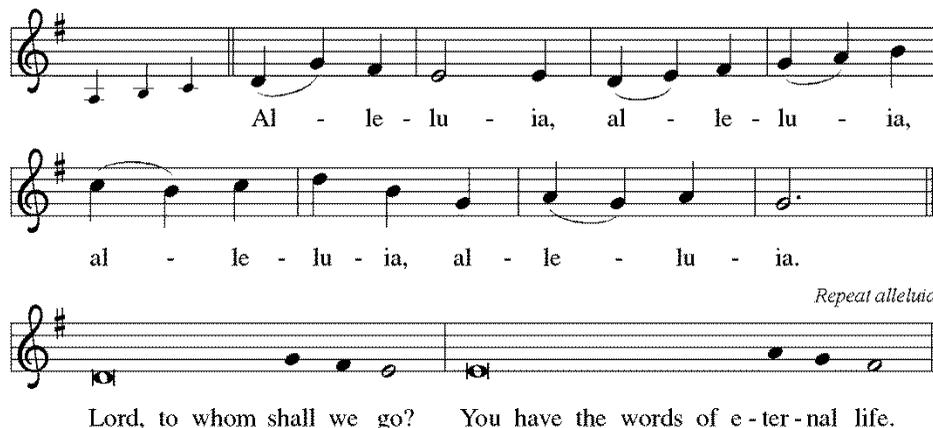
¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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. Mark.

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 2:1-12

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, *“Son, your sins are forgiven.”* ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone? ⁸At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, *“Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk?’ ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”* — he said to the paralytic — *“¹¹I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.”* ¹²And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, *“We have never seen anything like this!”*

📖 The Gospel of our Lord

👉 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

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 Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

ELW 742

THE 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.**

THE 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: Marvin Andersen, Lois Carlsen, Emalee Gardels, Jr Green, Eunice Grunberg, Teri Heil, Lavern Larkowski, Susan Muchmore, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Ed White

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 “Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come”

Mary McDonald

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Merciful God,
- C** receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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 music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

(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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for 'Sanctus' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

THE 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

- P** We who are many are one body,
☩ for we all partake of the one bread. We come to be filled with light and life.

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Come, Ye Disconsolate”
“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW 607

ELW 631

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** O Morning Star, fair and bright,
☩ you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

BLESSING

☞ The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

☞ **Amen.**

HYMN

“Jesus Shall Reign”

ELW 434

Verse 1: All

Verse 2: *Men*

Verse 3: All

Verse 4: **Women**

Verse 5: All

DISMISSAL

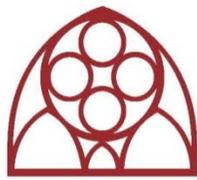
☞ Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

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KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

February 3 & 4, 2018

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.

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Amanda Zasada	Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew	Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose	Financial Secretary
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Director of Children's Music
Danny Bos	Handbell Director/Custodian
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Comm. Asst.	Tarna Kidder Dan Collett Pam Johnson
Lector	Jon Natvig
Ushers	Dick Nelson Donna Crouse Ralph Diggins Brad Madison Rodney Nord Dan Troxel Sharon West Dean Winther Bob Johnson
Greeters	Colleen Lenners Carole Meilahn Lois Sorensen
Crucifer	Angie Arispe
Acolytes	Clara Kidder Anna Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 PM

Comm. Asst.	Deb Hinrichs June Anderson
Lector	Steve Hinrichs
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman Jo Kayton
Crucifer	Keelan Edwards
Acolytes	Torin Edwards Tyler Johnston

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us on Sundays for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger. If you're able to help set up, prep/cook, and/or clean up after breakfast on Sunday mornings, please talk to Jim, or let the church office know. We would appreciate your help! Thanks.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** *Omaha Lutheran Campus Ministry with Pr. Jim Holtus* **NEXT WEEK:** *Lent Preview of Services and Synodical Theme*

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday 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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR We are forming a new Children's Choir, the JOYFUL SOUNDS Children's Choir, will begin this Sunday, February 4, 2018! This choir will be for grades 2 through 5 (readers). Preschool through first grade (and grades 2-5 that are not in choir) will continue with Kristin Boe for the Children's Sermon Lesson.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center 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!

February 4 Sunday

Homebound Communion
 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
 8:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
 9:00 AM Children's Choir (gr 2-5)
 10:10 AM Adult Forum
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
 8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

February 5 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

February 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

February 7 Wednesday

10:30 AM Augsburg Confessions Class
 12:15 PM Worship
 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 PM Confirmation Dinner
 6:30 PM Augsburg Confession Class
 6:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Worship
 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 PM Closing Worship

February 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board Meeting
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

February 10 Saturday

10:00 AM Worship Leader Training
 5:00 PM Worship

February 11 Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord
 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 Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr 2-5)
 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 Book Group
 8:30 PM LCM Worship @ CU (Halley Chapel)

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.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to help us beautify the altar by donating altar flowers or the eternal candle.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held April 15 & 22 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 when you register.



PASTOR'S CLASS Pastor Olaf Roynesdal's class on the Augsburg Confession (the Confessio Augustana) which is the foundational doctrinal document of the Evangelical Lutheran Church concludes this Wednesday.

WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING Saturday, February 10, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Join us for training of Communion Assistants, Lectors, Greeters and Ushers. With a little bit of training and conversation, anyone can fill these vital positions. Without such volunteers, many of the aspects of our liturgy—which so many of you and so many of our guests report to be vital and enriching—are impeded. Please consider volunteering in any one of the many available positions. All current servers, those who wish to serve in the future, or those who are interested in learning about serving, are encouraged to attend. Please call the church office to register. We will equip with everything you need and encourage you to let your service be an expression of worship.

ORDINATION SERVICE, Sunday, February 11, 3:00 PM – Enjoy the Celebration We are honored to host here at Kountze the Service of Ordination for John Gok Badeng on behalf of his congregation, Nile Lutheran Church. We will enjoy this time of praise and prayer in the sounds of their South Sudanese heritage. And during the time of fellowship, we can enjoy food of their traditions. We need a few folks to help with hospitality, to serve as ushers and to help in the kitchen. If you are willing to help, please speak with Pastor Moessner.

KMLC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarship are funds available to any eligible college-bound student member. Active members of Kountze Memorial planning or continuing to attend ANY college, university or seminary may submit an application. Additional eligibility requirements are noted on the application. Applications can be picked up after the first of the year in the Church Office, or downloaded at www.kmlchurch.org. Applications are due March 1. Applications received after this date will not be accepted. Please note: Scholarships are not automatically renewable, and recipients must re-apply each year.

BAPTISM SEMINAR Noon, Sunday, March 11. Meet with Pr. Hall in the Nave immediately after the liturgy, and then he will walk through the baptismal liturgy. To register, call the church office at 402-341-7761.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS Sunday, March 18, 12:00 PM. Communion is open to all baptized Christians. Those children who are already communing or those children interested in receiving Holy Communion are invited to a First Communion class. We will begin with lunch in the conference room followed by instruction in the Nave with Pastor Hall. Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 PM. A good guide for determining when your children are ready to receive Communion is when they begin to ask about receiving it during the liturgy. Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY worship (Wednesday, February 14) will be a time to receive the ashes of repentance and the word of God's forgiveness. Worship with us at 12:15 & 7:00 PM. Dinner

from 6 – 7 PM. Cost of the dinner – Free-will offering.

Lent at Kountze

Theme: *Being Lutheran Together*

February 21 - Faith Alone

February 28 - Grace Alone

March 7 - Scripture Alone

March 14 - To the Glory of God Alone

March 21 - The Gospel-Evangelical Alone

Dinner - 6 - 7 PM

Cost - Free-will Offering

Worship - 12:15 PM and 7 PM



Progressive Dinner

Sunday, March 4

6th – 12th Graders

Watch for more details.

LYSO – Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha

June 11 – 15

Adults willing to help?! Contact Pastor Paul or Kirstin Boe.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 44

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 261 11:00: 126

Midweek - Noon: 7 **Evening:** 20

Total: 458

Pantry Guests Served: 384

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 49

Offering: Not available at time of printing

God comes with power to heal and restore.

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

Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people
Monday	Isaiah 40:21-31	The Lord gives strength
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	The rights of an apostle
Wednesday	Isaiah 35:3-10	God is coming to heal you
Thursday	Matthew 8:5-17	Jesus heals in Capernaum
Friday	Luke 6:12-19	Jesus spends a night in prayer
Saturday	Psalms 147	Praise the Lord
Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	The transfiguration of Jesus



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.

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Even youth will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:30-31 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord, just as you give hope and renew the strength of the weary, come today and bring us your healing touch. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

The Lord sends rain to the earth and makes grass grow on the hills. Thank you, God, for giving us all we need. Amen. (Psalm 147:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord renew your strength that you may rise up with wings like eagles; may you run and not be weary; may you walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time you have been sick, emotionally down, or simply exhausted.
- Tell about a time you were full of energy. What gave you that sense of renewed strength?
- In Isaiah 40, the people are far from home in Israel. They feel forgotten by God (Isaiah 40:27). How does God let you know you are not forgotten and how does that renew your spirit?

Read: Mark 1:29-39.

Jesus is having a big day. In the morning he preached and healed a man with an unclean spirit at the synagogue (vv. 21-29); in the afternoon he heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law and she immediately serves those gathered (vv. 30-31); and, in the evening he healed all who were sick or possessed with demons as "the whole city was gathered around the door" where he was (vv. 32-33). After Jesus' big day, he got up early the next morning alone and went out to a deserted place to pray. The Gospel of Mark begins with a fast start. Jesus is on the move, people come running to him, and he responds by healing all who are before him. What might Mark 1 be saying about the kingdom Jesus ushers in? What does it say to you as a follower of Jesus? After reflecting on this text, close by praying the Lord's Prayer.

In Mark 1:30-31, Simon Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus then immediately continued her ministry of service and hospitality in her home. Serving others so they may serve is a beautiful gift of the body of Christ. Think of someone you know who could benefit from a contact to have their strength restored (Isaiah 40:31). Make a call or visit that person, listen to their story of need and care for them with the love and presence of Jesus. You may want to use portions of *Taking Faith Home* to encourage that person with God's word of promise and hope.

Christian people are praying people. There are many traditions we can introduce into our homes to remind us to pray, to offer different ways of praying, and to help make prayer a routine part of our lives. Here are some ideas to use this week: Pray in silence to meditate on God's presence and assurance (Psalm 46:10); Pray to God your disappointments (a lament prayer: see Isaiah 40:27); Pray to God a prayer of praise (Psalm 147); Pray prayers for healing (Mark 1:30-34); Pray prayers for strength and renewal (Isaiah 40:29-31); and pray for the need people have to receive the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16-23). Have a place in your home to list these types of prayers and a place to jot down prayer requests. Display well known prayers such as the Lord's Prayer and the Peace Prayer of St. Francis.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9