

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

February 23, 2020

9:00 & 11:00 AM

### TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD



*Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

**C Amen.**

**P** As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** God who searches us and knows us,

**C you have shown us what is good,  
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.**

**We have not been just in our dealings with others.**

**We have chosen revenge over mercy.**

**We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you.**

**With what shall we come before you?**

**Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation  
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**P** Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; † your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven:

**C Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"O God, Beyond All Praising"*

**ELW 880**

## 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.**



<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,  
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.

<sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an | iron rod  
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”

<sup>10</sup>**And now, you | kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the | LORD with fear,  
and with trembling | bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup>**lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath.  
Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!**

## SECOND READING

**2 Peter 1:16-21**

*At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

**F**or we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*(stand)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

**ELW 517 vs 1**

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your Son  
and bring to naught all he has done.**

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 17:1-9**

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

**J**esus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “*Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.*” <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “*This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!*” <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “*Get up and do not be afraid.*” <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “*Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.*”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

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

*(sit)*

## SERMON

Pastor Hall

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“*Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*”

ELW 553

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**¶** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☩** **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.**

(stand)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Response:**    **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

*(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)*

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Sam Holland, father of Tim Holland

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Debbi Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Dolores Hiatt, Karrol Kamarath, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Bess Swanson, Sheri Tipton, Jerry Warner, Ed & Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Justin Perkins

## WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** 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 congregation 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.*



## MUSICAL OFFERING

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

John Rutter

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

**ELW 310 vs 1&4**

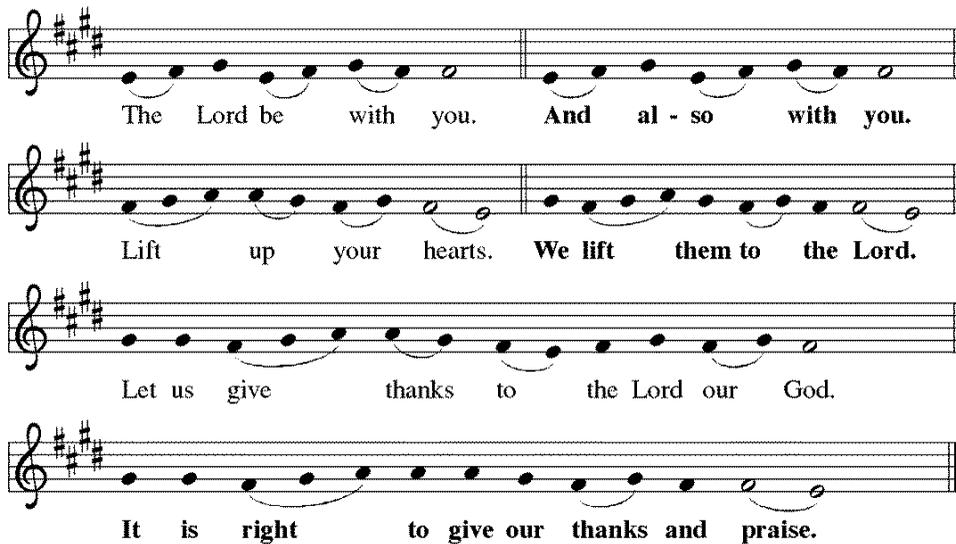
- 1** Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifest by the star to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.
  
- 4** Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of wonder,
- G** you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

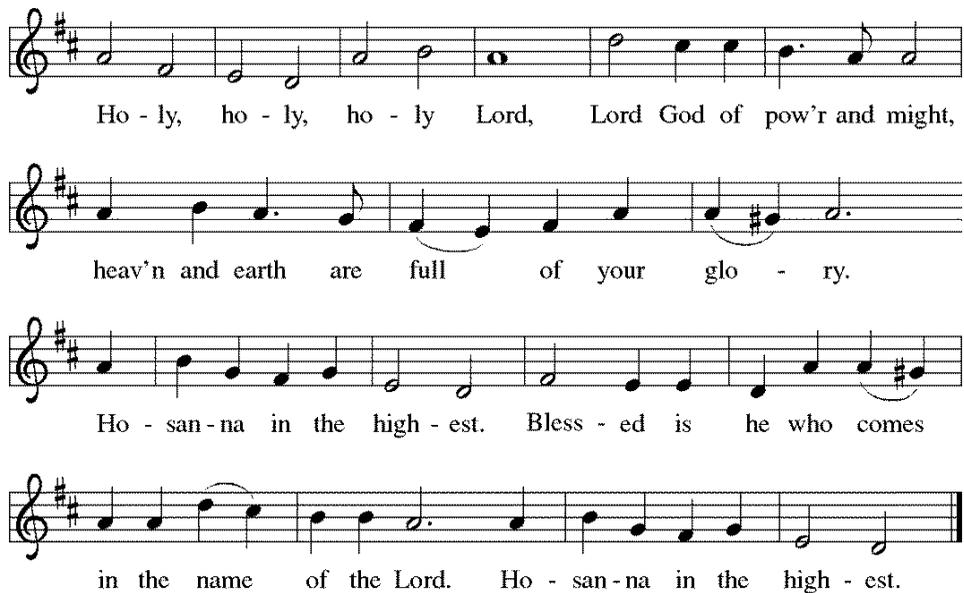
## HOLY COMMUNION



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.

## PREFACE FOR TRANSFIGURATION

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☞ **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

☞ Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

☞ **Come to the table of mercy and joy.**

### THE DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is **intinction**, you will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

(sit)

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*“Agnus Dei”*

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.

*“Beautiful Savior”*  
*“In Thee Is Gladness”*

**ELW 838**  
**ELW 867**

(stand)

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Faithful God,
- C** you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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# SENDING

(sit)

## BLESSING

- P** May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

### FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

- P** We are an Easter people.  
**C** **And Alleluia is our song.**
- P** Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**C** **Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- P** The author of Ecclesiastes writes: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.  
**C** **A time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.**
- P** A time to break down and a time to build up.  
**C** **A time to weep and a time to laugh.**
- P** A time to mourn and a time to dance.  
**C** **A time to keep silence and a time to speak.**
- P** As a sign of our repentance, we now say Farewell to the Alleluia until our rejoicing at the resurrection of our Lord. How good it is for us to be here.  
**C** **Amen! Alleluia!**

## HYMN

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

**ELW 631**

## DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Let your light shine.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

† † †

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities Custodian
Søren Johnson	Housekeeper
Kayla Slaughter	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Children's Music
Donna Moessner	Organist
Mark Jones	Saturday Accompanist
David Gerard	Night Security Manager
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Nursery Superintendent
Norma Pafford	Director of the Weber Clinic
Joyce Palmer	Food Pantry Director
Susann Henry	Exec. Dir. Kountze Commons
Taylor Brown	

### SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Charlie Bressman
Ushers	Jim Smejkal Jason Klonglan
Comm. Set-up	Jim Smejkal

### SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Giselle Loucks Scott Henneman Dan Collett Liz Pemberton
Lector	Robin Perkins
Ushers	Rodney Nord Bob Johnson Brad Madison Sharon West Dean Winther Dan Troxel
Greeters	Colleen Lenners Carole Meilahn Bev Troxel
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Charlie Wachholtz John Groenjes

### SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ashley Sum Lowell Harms
Lector	Donna Moessner
Ushers	Norm Sack Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson
Greeters	Barb Chrisman
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Neely Edwards Communion Assistant



# KOUNTZE

## Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

**February 22 & 23, 2020**

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 worshipping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 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.

### TODAY AT KOUNTZE

**KOUNTZE CAFÉ** Join us each Sunday 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.

**ADULT FORUM** Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** The Creed: He Will Come Again **NEXT WEEK:** The Creed: He Suffered and Died

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in memory of Joyce E. Hahn by her family

**ETERNAL CANDLE** is given to the glory of God in memory of Joyce E. Hahn by her family

### CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

**JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs-8<sup>th</sup> grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

**HIGH SCHOOL FORUM** Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

**February 23 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 K-6)  
 10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8<sup>th</sup>)  
 10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

**February 24 Monday**

10:00 AM Pantry

**February 25 Tuesday**

7:00 PM Circle 3

**February 26 Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday  
 9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
 11:00 AM Lenten Lunch  
 12:15 PM Worship

5:30 PM Lenten Dinner

7:00 PM Worship

**February 27 Thursday**

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

**February 29 Saturday**

Homebound Communion

9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group Breakfast (offsite)

5:00 PM Worship

**March 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 Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-6)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

**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.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be Sundays, April 19 & 26, 2020, from 12:15—2:00 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. New members will be received on May 3. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by April 12 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register. We are also planning a Saturday New Member Class for those not able to attend on Sundays. Please mark April 18 & 25 from 3:00—4:15 PM on your calendars and mark your attendance card if you plan to attend. New members will be received on Saturday, May 2.

**KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY** In February the pantry can once again use donations of toilet tissue. We do strive to make sure every Pantry guest receives one roll. Please leave your donations in the crate located in Fellowship Hall. Your gifts are mightily appreciated! Please consider volunteering for one of the regular shifts from 9:00—11:00 AM or 11:00AM—1:00 PM. The green sign-up book is in Fellowship Hall, meeting room A, by the kitchen.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE "PALOOZA" BREAKFAST** supporting Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry is happening February 25 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church from 7:30—9:30 AM. Breakfast will be prepared by "The Pancake Man" Jim Cooper, who is a "showman" as he cooks the cakes. A feast of all you care to eat pancakes, sausage, and enjoy fellowship in support of our work together in faith formation for college age young adults. Free will offering for breakfast—college students free with student ID.

**YESTERDAY'S YOUTH** Tuesday, March 3, 12:00 PM. \$4.00 for lunch. All ages are welcome! Our speaker this month will be long-time Kountze member, Dr. Jerry Fischer. You won't want to miss this! Lunch will be served at noon. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 28. If you have questions, please call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Hope to see you there!

**TABLE GRACE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER** Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls “Voices of Empowerment” with MC D. Kevin Williams on Friday, March 6, from 5:30—8:30 PM at St. Thomas Lutheran Church (17007 Q St). Heavy hors d’oeuvres, music, live and silent auction. This year’s fundraiser is in memory of Tom Tentis. Individual tickets are \$80 or sponsor a table (includes 8 tickets) for \$640—\$20,000. Tickets are available at tickets@tablegraceministries.com or call Simone at 402-965-1276. Reserve table or tickets by March 3.

**COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT/SAINT JOHN’S UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR** of Colledgeville, Minnesota, will perform a Concert of Sacred and Secular Music on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 PM at Christ the King Parish (654 S 86th St). Free Admission but free will donations requested and welcomed. Conductor, Axel Theimer, a native of Austria and a former member of the Vienna Boy’s Choir. He has been on the music faculty at Saint John’s University and College of Saint Benedict since 1969.

**THE SPIRE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**, under the baton of Founder and Artistic Director Ben A. Spalding, will perform the Bach Mass in B Minor on Friday, March 6, from 7-9 PM at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 North 40th Street). The concert is free and open to the public. Now in their 10<sup>th</sup> season, Spire is one of the preeminent choral-orchestral chamber ensembles in the United States. The virtuoso choir and orchestra of distinctive solo artists are committed to the highest level of ensemble performance. Spire Chamber Ensemble inspires, educates, and enriches the Kansas City metropolitan community through the transformational power of great choral music performed at the highest artistic level. Be sure to add this to your calendar of events!

**LYSO** June 8-12, 2020, from 8:30-Noon. Grades K-12. Mark your Calendar for this exciting summer ministry opportunity at Kountze Memorial. JOIN US!! Invite your friends.

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES** March 22 & 29, 12:15 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, April 9 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.

### **ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

**Saturday Attendance:** 47

**Sunday Attendance:** 9:00: 228 11:00: 113

**Midweek - Noon:** 11 **Evening:** 11

**Total:** 410

**Pantry Guests Served:** President’s Day—no Pantry

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 28

**Offering:**

Not available at time of printing

### **SPENDING TIME WITH AN OLD FRIEND**

Our midweek Lenten Worship will give us an opportunity to visit an old friend: The Lord’s Prayer. Each week we will reflect on various petitions(s) of this great prayer gaining insights from Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. Pastor Roynesdal and Pastor Hall are looking forward to this special time and encourage you to come and hopefully gain a new perspective and a new appreciation for the prayer we say most often.

Our tentative Schedule will be as follows:



#### **ASH WEDNESDAY, February 26**

THE INTRO. AND THE FIRST PETITION  
“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

#### **Wednesday, March 4**

THE SECOND AND THIRD PETITIONS  
“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

#### **Wednesday, March 11**

THE FOURTH PETITION  
“Give us this day our daily bread.”

#### **Wednesday, March 18**

THE FIFTH PETITION  
“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

#### **Wednesday, March 25**

THE SIXTH PETITION  
“And lead us not into temptation.”

#### **Wednesday, April 1**

THE SEVENTH PETITION AND THE CONCLUSION  
“But deliver us from evil. Amen.”

Wednesday Services:

12:15 PM (with the Lord’s Supper) and  
7:00 PM

Lenten Meals:

Lunch, 11:00 - Noon  
Supper, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

*Disciples have a mountaintop experience.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	Exodus 24:12-18	Moses goes up to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	2 Peter 1:16-21	Eye witnesses of Christ's glory
Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Giving, praying, and fasting
Thursday	Genesis 8:1-22	The Lord's promise for the earth
Friday	Genesis 22:1-19	The Lord will provide
Saturday	Psalms 2	The Lord's chosen king
Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus



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But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. **Matthew 17:7-8 (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and eternal God, help us to be aware of your saving presence in our lives and in our world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share, on every table, everywhere. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Almighty bless you to see Jesus and to bring you comfort and strength.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Identify a special place in your life where you go to experience God's presence.
- Tell of or think about a time you had a special sense of God's presence in your life.
- How do you think the experience of Jesus' transfiguration witnessed by Peter, James, and John impacted the disciples after Jesus' death and resurrection?

*Read:* Matthew 17:1-9.

In the midst of the challenges and hurts of everyday life, it can be a gift and a source of comfort and strength to have a "God moment" experience. It happened to Peter, James, and John. It also happens to us, that sense that God is near and all is well. Our comfort is not in any god or spiritual experience, but one that links us to Jesus, the Son of God, the one who came to die on another mountain, Golgotha. This mountain experience brings together Jesus, Moses, Elijah, and unprepared disciples. What makes this moment a valued "God moment" is that the disciples are comforted ("do not be afraid") and their focus becomes exclusively on Jesus alone. What a moment and a gift it is to see Jesus before us with total focus and concentration. Have you had a special moment that gave you a comforting sense that Jesus was with you?

**Pray: Dear God, help us to see Jesus in our mountaintop highs and in our valley lows, and may that vision give us comfort and strength to be your faithful followers. In Jesus' name, amen.**

A clear voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5b). The key word here is "listen." A Greek philosopher, Epictetus once said, "We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak." One way to serve others is to simply listen. Who, in your life this week, would appreciate the gift of listening?

In Exodus 24, Moses went up on a cloud-covered mountain. "Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights" (vs. 18b). We are about to enter another 40-day period of prayer and fasting as we prepare for Ash Wednesday this week. The day before is called Shrove Tuesday and is recognized around the world as a day to eat fattening foods, especially pancakes. Prepare a pancake feast on Tuesday this week to enjoy with friends and family. After feasting, say this blessing: **May God bless you through your journey this Lent.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11