

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

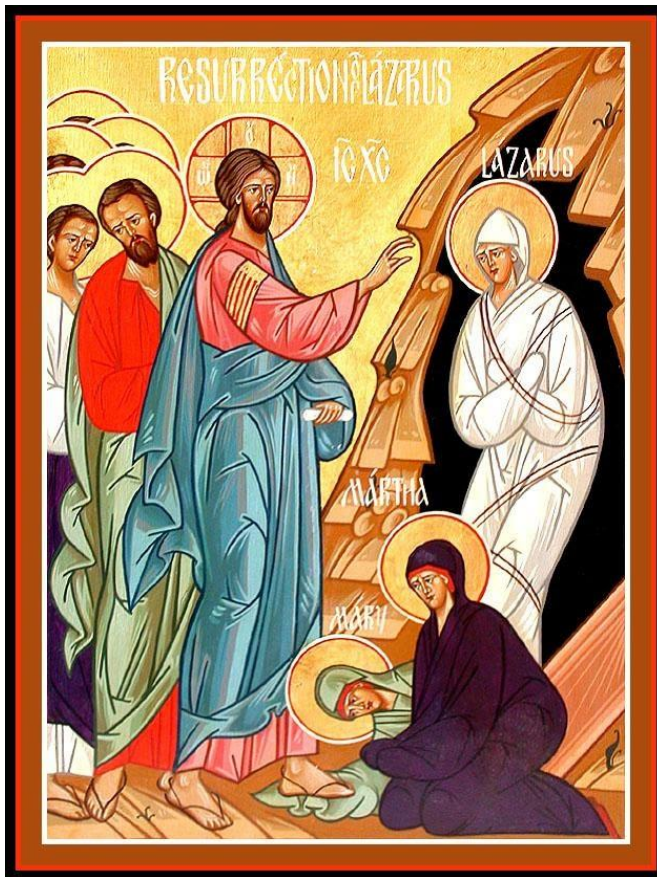
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

March 29, 2020

9:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



In today's gospel, Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life..

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **[Romans 14:17]**
- C** Amen.
- P** If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess. **[Psalm 130:3-4]**

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Gracious God,
C have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.
We have wandered from your resurrection life.
We have strayed from your love for all people.
Turn us back to you, O God.
Give us new hearts and right spirits, **[Psalm 51:10]**
that we will find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen. **[Psalm 23:6]**
- P** Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you. **[Romans 5:15]**
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

ELW 320

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were
made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.</p> <p>2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.</p> | <p>3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend,
became
the herald of Messiah's name.</p> <p>4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt.
Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal* © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

P By your resurrection and ascension;
by the gift of the Holy Spirit:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C **Save us, good Lord.**

P Though unworthy, we implore you

C **to hear us, Lord our God.**

P To rule and govern your holy catholic church;
to guide all servants of your church
in the love of your word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms
and causes of offense to those who would believe;
and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone astray:

C **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To beat down Satan under our feet; **[Romans 16:20]**
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your word with your Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand;
and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:

C **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To give to all nations justice and peace; **[2 Timothy 2:2]**
to preserve our country from discord and strife;
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
and to bless and guide all our people:

C **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;
to protect and guide all who travel;
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;
to watch over children and to guide the young;
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;
to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;
and to have mercy on all your people:

C **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,
and to reconcile us to them;
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
of the earth, the sea, and the air;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **we implore you to hear us.**

C **have mercy on us.**

C **have mercy on us.**

C **give us peace. Amen.**

P O Christ, hear us.

C **In mercy hear us.**

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Christ, have mercy.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God,

C **your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130 (read responsively)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.


📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION [Joel 2:13]

ELW, setting 3, p 142



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

G Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection

on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

☞ The Gospel of the 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 Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Abide with Me”

ELW 629

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**
- 3 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.**
- 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!**
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

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)

Illness: Richard Bock, Debbi Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Shirley Gersib, mother of Pat Studts, Debbie Hinrichs, Dolores Hiatt, Jean Holcombe, Beth & Richard Holzer, sister and father of James Holzer, Linday Johnson, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Lara & Olivia McCormick, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Sheri Tipton, 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.**

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Panis Angelicus”

César Franck (1822-1890)

Janet Carlsen Campbell, soloist

Latin Text: **Panis Angelicus fit panis hominum**
Dat panis coelicus figuris terminum
O res mirabilis! Manducat Dominum
Pauper, pauper, servus et humilis
Pauper, pauper, servus et humilis

English: The angel's bread becomes the bread of men
The heavenly bread ends all symbols
Oh, miraculous thing! The body of the Lord will nourish
The poor, poor, and humble servant
The poor, poor, and humble servant

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

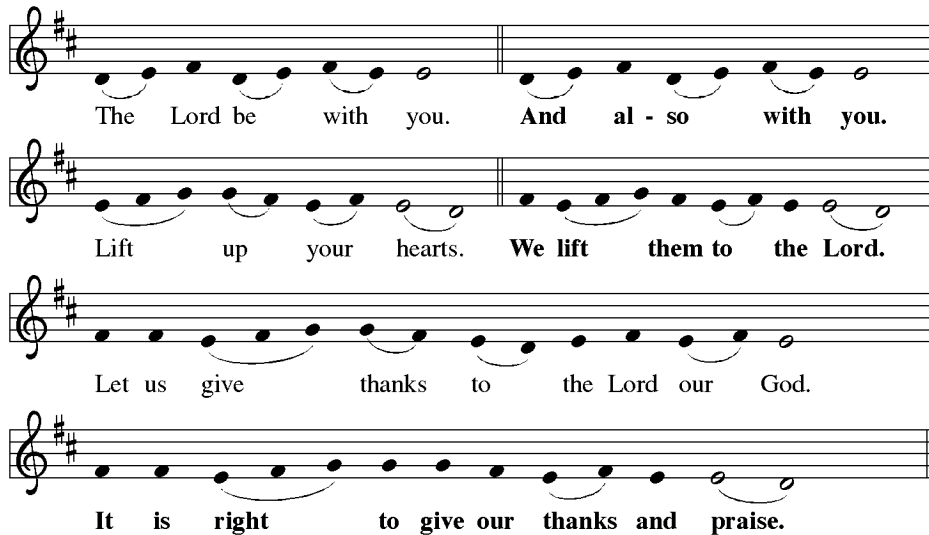
OFFERTORY HYMN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Holy and generous host,
☑ **you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people will know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. 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 LENT

From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.

SANC TUS



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

[Isaiah 6:3]



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

[Revelation 4:8]



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

[Matthew 21:9]

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION [1 Corinthians 11 :23-26]

THE LORD'S PRAYER [Matthew 6 :9-13 ; Luke 11:2-4]

☐ 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

☐ God's love is poured out in Christ for you.

☑ **We open ourselves to receive it.**

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.*

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ We thank you, living God,
☞ **for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. The Holy God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **[2 Corinthians 6 :2]**

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

ELW 452

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height. | one God who made us all. |
| 2 | To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace. | 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave. |
| 3 | There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, | 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life. |

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Share the good news.
☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

Special Notice

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings we have canceled all worship services (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays), Sunday School, all meals, and other church activities through April 30. In the meantime, join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 29, 2020



E-News and Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, you can sign up by emailing info@kmlchurch.org or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Fridays, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

In response to the coronavirus threat we are temporarily changing our distribution system at the Kountze Food Pantry to allow for extra protection for our volunteers as well as our guests. Volunteers are still needed to fill the bags, and unload the trucks. Guests will not be allowed in the building, and the volunteers can stay inside the pantry if they choose. We're asking you to sign up online if you are able to help with the pantry each week. We have to limit the number coming to help and we also need to make sure we have enough help. Please use the link below to let Susie know when you're able to volunteer. If you know someone that doesn't use the internet, please let them know they can call Susie and she'll sign them up. Thanks for your help with this new process.

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

LYSO (Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha)

June 8—12

8:30—Noon

Grades K-12

Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha, or LYSO, is Vacation Bible School with a twist. It features faith formation, servant-hood, fellowship and fun! Children and youth will gather at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for breakfast and devotions. Everyone is then divided by

grade and sent out into the community to serve at sites around the Omaha-Metro area. Upon returning to Kountze, the youth will join together for reflection and a closing worship. Email Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org with questions. Registration coming soon!

Today at Kountze

Sunday School

This Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on this page (KMLC Parent Group). In addition, I will be providing some printable activities that relate to the lesson. Take a picture of your child's work and post it in the comments. Let's stay as connected as possible while we can't gather together. Stay tuned for more fun activities! In Peace, Kristin

Youth Forum will be at 10:30 AM via Zoom. Contact Mike Jensen at mwjensen@yahoo.com for details.

Attendance and Giving

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 9 Online: 306

Pantry Guests Served: 303

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$43,741.00 (Regular) \$43,313.49 (Specials)

\$497.00 (Phase 2)

The resurrection means new life now.



© 2019 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

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

Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus
Monday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
Tuesday	Romans 8:6-11	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Romans 8:12-27	Wonderful future of God's people
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:1-15	Treasure in clay jars
Friday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 130	Trusting the Lord in times of trouble
Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of life and hope, we thank you for the promise of the resurrection and the power it brings to us each day through Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this meal we are strengthened to wait for you with faith and hope through Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of life free you from all burdens and give you peace.

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

- Tell or think about something you are looking forward to doing in the future.
- How does thinking about a future moment impact your life today?
- Both Ezekiel 37 and Jesus in John 11 talk about God's power to give life. How does the promise of the resurrection and God's power to give life influence you today?

Read: John 11:1-45.

With the story of the raising of Lazarus we have Jesus making clear that Jesus is not only the source of "the resurrection on the last day" (v. 24), but the source of life now. Jesus does not just say he is the resurrection. He says, "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). In this story we gain understanding of what it means that Jesus is the "Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world" (v. 27). The future hope of the resurrections is so important and so real that it changes our life in the present. Even though Jesus weeps with his friends (v. 35), grief does not control his—or our—life. Our lives are to be freed from the daily powers of sin and death. "Unbind him and let him go" (v. 44) is the message for us, too. Jesus comes to us when our burdens are great to unbind us and set us free. Jesus says, "[E]veryone who lives and believes in me will never die" (v. 26). How does Jesus' resurrection make a difference in your life today? How does faith in Jesus impact your priorities, your values, your relationships?

Pray: **God of resurrection promise, remind us of the new life we are given each day through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Knowing one is nearing the end of their life is difficult for the person and for family and loved ones. As one draws closer to death we can be comforted to know of the resurrection and new life. This does not mean it will be easy. Jesus gives all who believe in him the promise of eternal life. Do you know of someone who has a loved one in the final stages of life? Is there a way you can support them through listening, prayer, meals, or household help?

During the fifth week in Lent, light five of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) has been introduced as a way to pray. This week use this acronym as a guide for prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, I praise you for . . . , Forgive me for . . . , I thank you for . . . , I pray for (name of people or situations) . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14--27:66