

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

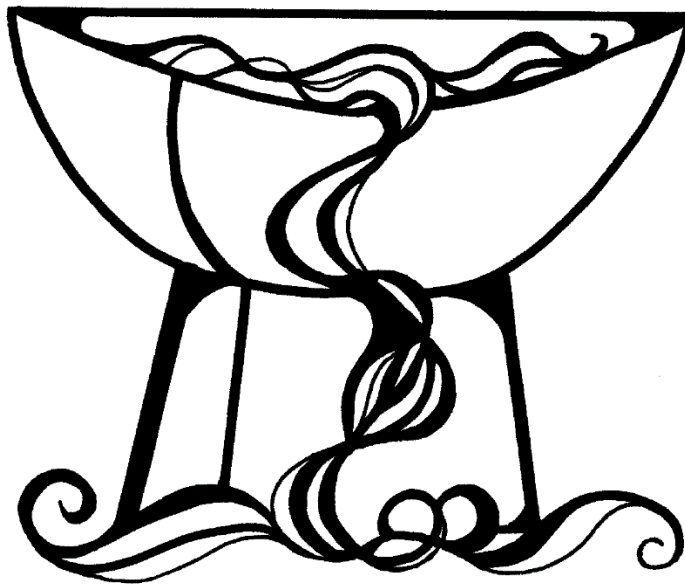
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

March 15, 2020

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT



In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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.
- 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.

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,
that we will find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

- 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.
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

ELW 319

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.

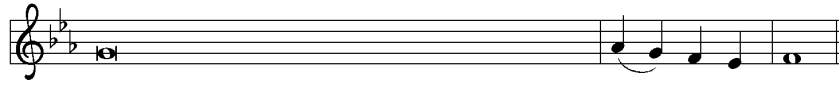
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



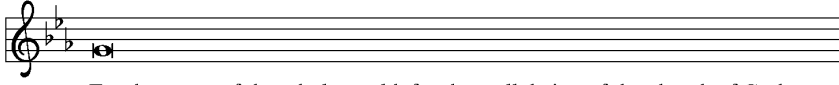
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



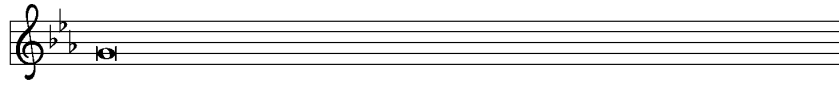
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Merciful God, the fountain of living water,

G you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not.”

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95 (read responsively)

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture
and the sheep of God’s hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

⁸“Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,

‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,

‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, *"Give me a drink."*⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, *"How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"* (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰Jesus answered her, *"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."*¹¹The woman said to him, *"Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"*¹²*Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"*¹³Jesus said to her, *"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."*¹⁵The woman said to him, *"Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."*

¹⁶Jesus said to her, *"Go, call your husband, and come back."*¹⁷The woman answered him, *"I have no husband."* Jesus said to her, *"You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"*¹⁹The woman said to him, *"Sir, I see that you are a prophet.²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."*²¹Jesus said to her, *"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*²⁵The woman said to him, *"I know that Messiah is coming"* (who is called Christ). *"When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."*²⁶Jesus said to her, *"I am he, the one who is speaking to you."*

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, *"What do you want?"* or, *"Why are you speaking with her?"*²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ *"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"*³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, *"Rabbi, eat something."*³²But Jesus said to them, *"I have food to eat that you do not know about."*³³So the disciples said to one another, *"Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"*³⁴Jesus said to them, *"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."*

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

☐ 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

"For All the Faithful Women"

ELW 419
vs 1, 2, 8 & Last

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 Earl Eckman, brother of Martha Eckman

Illness: Richard Bock, Debbi Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Dolores Hiatt, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, 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.

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

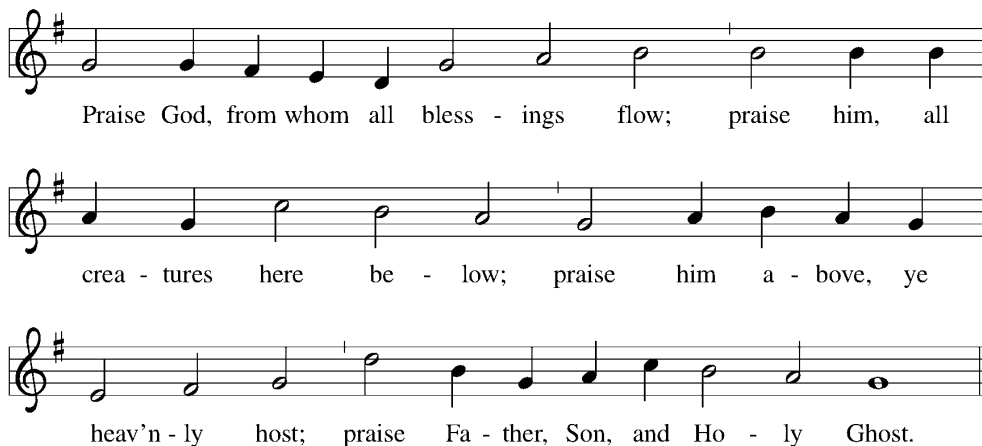
“Living Water of Life”

Frombach/Lantz III
Kai Johnson, violin

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

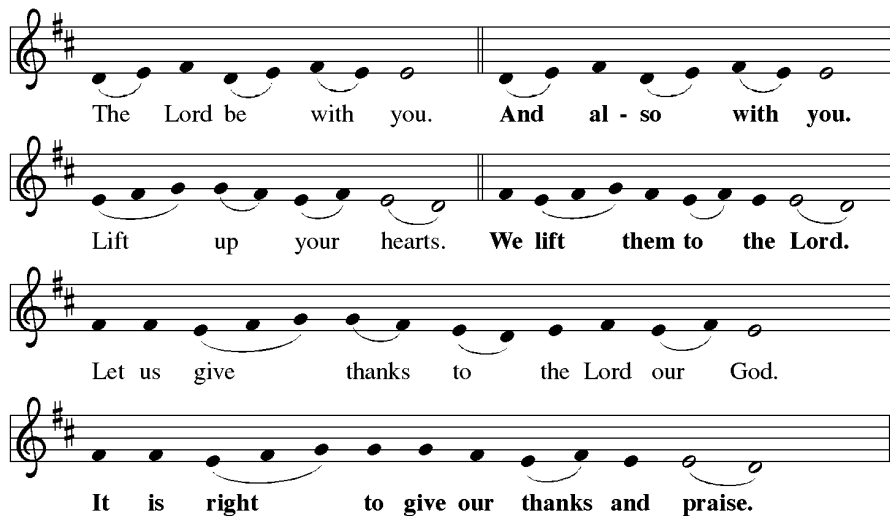


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Holy and generous host,
- C** 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.

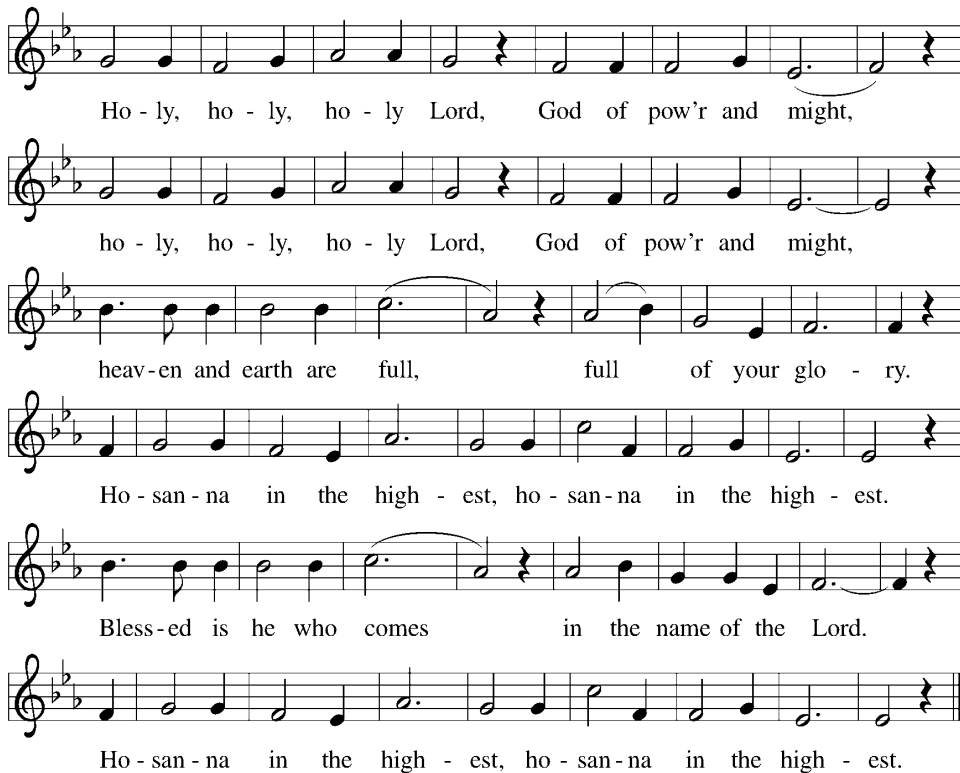
HOLY COMMUNION



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

SANCTUS



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

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

- ☐ 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.

(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.

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"
"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

ELW 777

ELW 623

(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.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”

ELW 321

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

✝ ✝ ✝

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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
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Taylor Brown	Exec. Dir. Kountze Commons

Saturday, 5:00 PM

Lector	Paul Revord
Ushers	Paul Revord
	Mary Jo Fike
Comm. Set-up	Mary Jo Fike

Sunday, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Kevin Larkowski
	Giselle Loucks
	Jill Gittler

Lector	Kevin Larkowski
Ushers	Glenn Anderson
	Dan Collett
	Gary Westerman
	Bob Woodworth
	Ted Kaasch
	Marcy Madison

Greeters	Sharon Anderson
	Carole Woodworth
	Karen Wolf

Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson
	Brooks Hinrichs

Sunday, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Judith Wascher
	June Anderson

Lector	Jacob Rump
Ushers	James Holzer
	Linda Hoagland
	Julie O'Doherty

Greeters	Julie King
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Hadley Rief
	Henry Rief



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 14 & 15, 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 worshiping, 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

8:00—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for a hot breakfast buffet 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

10:10—10:50 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall

This Week: How Are We 'Saved'?

Next Week: How Are We 'Saved'?, pt. 2

Eternal Candle

Given to the glory of God in honor of Anna Kidder's 17th birthday.

Children & Youth Ministries Today

Joyful Sounds Children's Choir

9:00—9:30 AM

K-6th grade

Children are welcome to join us each Sunday to praise our Lord by singing. We meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor.

Sunday School

9:00—10:00 AM Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) (child care for those too old for the nursery)

10:10—10:50 AM Sunday School (2 yrs-8th grade)

Join us on the 2nd floor.

High School Forum

10:10 AM

Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center.

March 15 Sunday

Good News Deadline
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)
10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Executive Committee

March 16 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

March 17 Tuesday

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

March 18 Wednesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Lenten Dinner
7:00 PM Worship

March 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

March 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

March 22 Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-6)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:00 PM Stephen Ministry
12:15 PM 1st Communion Class

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. There is also 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

Our nursery is available from 9:00 AM—noon for children 0-2 years of age. 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 and 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

Sundays, April 19 & 26

12:15—2:00 PM

If you are interested in joining our congregation, 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.

Saturday New Member Class

Saturdays, April 18 & 25

3:00—4:15 PM

A Saturday class has been added for those not able to attend on Sundays. Please mark your attendance card if you plan to attend. New members will be received on Saturday, May 2.



Kountze Food Pantry

In response to the coronavirus threat we will be temporarily changing our distribution system at the Kountze Food Pantry, to allow for extra protection for our volunteers, as well as our guests. Your help is still needed to pre-fill individual bags. We will, however, not be opening the pantry. The bags will be distributed at the garage door. Anyone willing to hand the bags out should identify themselves. I have asked Dr. Fischer to provide masks and gloves. On Monday, March 16th, volunteers will be utilized in the pantry to pre-fill as many bags as we can with the food on hand. We do not know what will happen during the week, and it will be good to have bags ready to go for next week. One thing we know for sure: people still need their food, and it is our mission to feed the poor in Christ's name. I pray you will feel called to help with this mission as usual on Monday.

Men's Luncheon

Thursday, March 19

11:30 AM

Suggested donation for lunch is \$10

Our very own Dr. Jerry Fischer will give an update on COVID-19. You'll also be able to ask questions you may have. Please RSVP to the church office or email Jim at jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, March 17.

First Communion Classes

Sundays, 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 Kristin Boe and 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. The curriculum

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 49

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 145 11:00: 94

Midweek - Noon: 61 Evening: 75

Total: 424

Pantry Guests Served: 293

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 34

Offering:

\$12,255.50 (Regular) \$4,843.03 (Specials)

\$957.00 (Phase 2)

will be "Fed & Forgiven." All ages are welcome; the course is geared toward second graders. Please register with the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

Friends & Family Luncheon

Sunday, March 29

12:00 PM

The Social Ministry Committee is hosting a luncheon followed by Holy Communion for all homebound members and friends of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We also invite our Eucharistic Ministers to participate. To let us know you plan to come, and if you need a ride, please contact the church office at 402-341-7761 or info@kmlchurch.org.

LYSO (Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha)

June 8—12

8:30—Noon

Grades K-12

Mark your calendar for this exciting summer ministry opportunity at Kountze Memorial. JOIN US!! Invite your friends.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, Church Broadcasts

There are still quite a few dates available for all of the above. You can sponsor flowers (no flowers during Lent) or a candle in memory of loved ones, in honor of a birthday, anniversary, milestone, etc., or in thanksgiving for family or friends. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select. Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet and the Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The cost of sponsoring one television broadcast is \$200 for 2020. The sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex, just before you enter the Sanctuary.

Our Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesday, March 18

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

The Fifth Petition

"And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Lunch, 11:00—Noon

Supper, 5:30—6:30 PM

Roast Pork Loin

Choice of Buttered or Pesto Noodles

Vegetable

Dinner Roll

Evangelism is relational.

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

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Exodus 17:1-7	The Lord gives water from a rock
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Right with God
Wednesday	John 1:35-42	Come and see Jesus
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 2:5-12	Paul's relational ministry
Friday	Romans 12:9-21	Caring relationships
Saturday	Psalms 95	Call to worship
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

taking
faith
home

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“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” **John 4:29 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, thank you for reaching out to me and to all your people with steadfast love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you fed the people in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today. In the name of Jesus our Savior, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

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

- How would you introduce yourself to a stranger?
- Who has introduced you to (or taught you about) Jesus? How did this happen?
- The woman at the well introduced Jesus to her townspeople. Who can you introduce to Jesus?

Read: John 4:5-42.

Jesus meets with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. It's the place where Jacob met Rachel more than a millennium before. It is now the place where Jesus shows what it means that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16) by caring for a non-Jewish woman, someone who was alone and likely abandoned by her own people. The woman is so impressed by Jesus and their conversation that she goes to her townspeople and says, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" (v. 29) The Samaritan woman does three things that are essential traits of evangelism: 1) she invites ("Come and see"); 2) she tells her own story of her encounter with Jesus ("I just met a man who . . ."); and 3) she wonders if this is the awaited Messiah (Her question in the original Greek suggests she really doesn't think so.). Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. How do you have conversations with others about Jesus?

Pray: **Merciful God, just as Jesus stopped to talk to the woman at the well, help me to stop, listen, and talk to others and be an example of your love for them. Amen.**

The Daily Bible Reading for Friday this week is about caring relationships. "Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers" (Romans 12:13). Think about what it feels like to be the new person on the block. Make a list of things you can do to extend a welcome to someone who is new in your community. Making a meal, giving rides, and introducing them to neighbors are a few ideas. What will you do to extend hospitality to a stranger this week?

During the third week in Lent, light three of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents "**T**", for Thanksgiving, meaning to express thanks and gratitude to God.

Pray: **Dear God, I am thankful for all that you have given me. I thank you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41