

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
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March 22, 2020

9:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT



Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

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

“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

ELW 520

1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

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. [**2 Corinthians 13:13**]
- C** And also with you.

THE GREAT LITANY [**Luke 11:5-10**]

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| P Lord, have mercy. | C Lord, have mercy. |
| P Christ, have mercy. | C Christ, have mercy. |
| P Lord, have mercy. | C Lord, have mercy. |
| P O Christ, hear us. | C In mercy hear us. |
| P God, the Father in heaven, | C have mercy on us. |
| P God, the Son, redeemer of the world, | C have mercy on us. |
| P God, the Holy Spirit, | C have mercy on us. |
| P Holy Trinity, one God, | C have mercy on us. |
| P Be gracious to us. | C Spare us, good Lord. |
| P Be gracious to us. | C Spare us, good Lord. |
- P** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
from the cunning assaults of the devil;
from an unprepared and evil death:
- C** Good Lord, deliver us.
- P** From war, bloodshed, and violence;
from corrupt and unjust government;
from sedition and treason:
- C** Good Lord, deliver us.

P From epidemic, drought, and famine;
from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning, and storm,
and from everlasting death:

C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

P By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by your agony and bloody sweat;
by your cross and suffering;
by your death and burial:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

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,
C we implore you to hear us.

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
C have mercy on us.

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
C have mercy on us.

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
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** Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
- C** **By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

The Lord said to Samuel, *“How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”* ²Samuel said, *“How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.”* And the Lord said, *“Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”* ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, *“Do you come peaceably?”* ⁵He said, *“Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.”* And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, *“Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.”* ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, *“Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”* ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, *“Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”* ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, *“Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”* ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, *“The Lord has not chosen any of these.”* ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, *“Are all your sons here?”* And he said, *“There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.”* And Samuel said to Jesse, *“Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”* ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, *“Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”* ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 (read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on 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.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*” ³Jesus answered, “*Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.*” ⁴*We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.* ⁵*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “*Go, wash in the pool of Siloam*” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “*Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?*” ⁹Some were saying, “*It is he.*” Others were saying, “*No, but it is someone like him.*” He kept saying, “*I am the man.*” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “*Then how were your eyes opened?*” ¹¹He answered, “*The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.*” ¹²*They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’*

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “*He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.*” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “*This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.*” But others said, “*How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?*” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “*What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.*” He said, “*He is a prophet.*”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “*Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?*” ²⁰His parents answered, “*We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.*” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “*He is of age; ask him.*”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “*Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.*” ²⁵He answered, “*I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.*” ²⁶They said to him, “*What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?*” ²⁷He answered them, “*I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?*” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “*You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.*” ²⁹*We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.*” ³⁰The man answered, “*Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.*” ³¹*We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.* ³²*Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.* ³³*If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.*” ³⁴They answered him, “*You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach*

us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “*Do you believe in the Son of Man?*” ³⁶He answered, “*And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.*” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “*You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.*” ³⁸He said, “*Lord, I believe.*” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “*I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.*” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “*Surely we are not blind, are we?*” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “*If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.*”

☐ 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 Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

ELW 599

**1 Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.**

**3 Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.**

**2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.**

**4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.**

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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 Lynne Swingen, daughter of Loren and Lorna Swingen; to the family and friends of Ken Cooper

Illness: Richard Bock, Debbi Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Shirley Gersib, mother of Pat Studts, Dolores Hiatt, Jean Holcombe, 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

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this 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

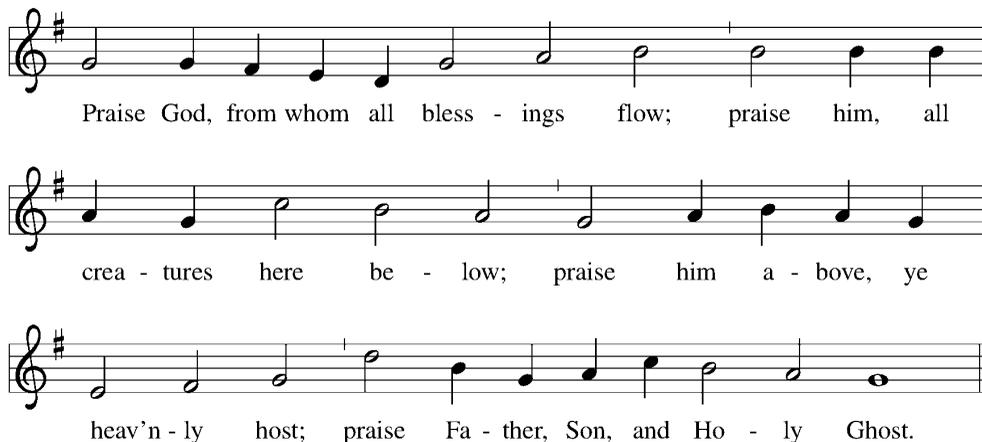
“Ave Maria”

Franz Schubert

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

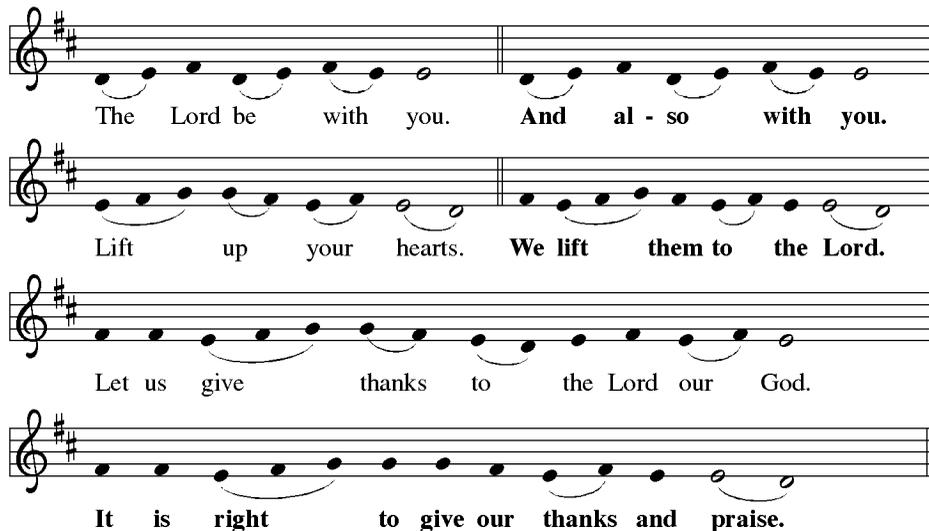


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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.**

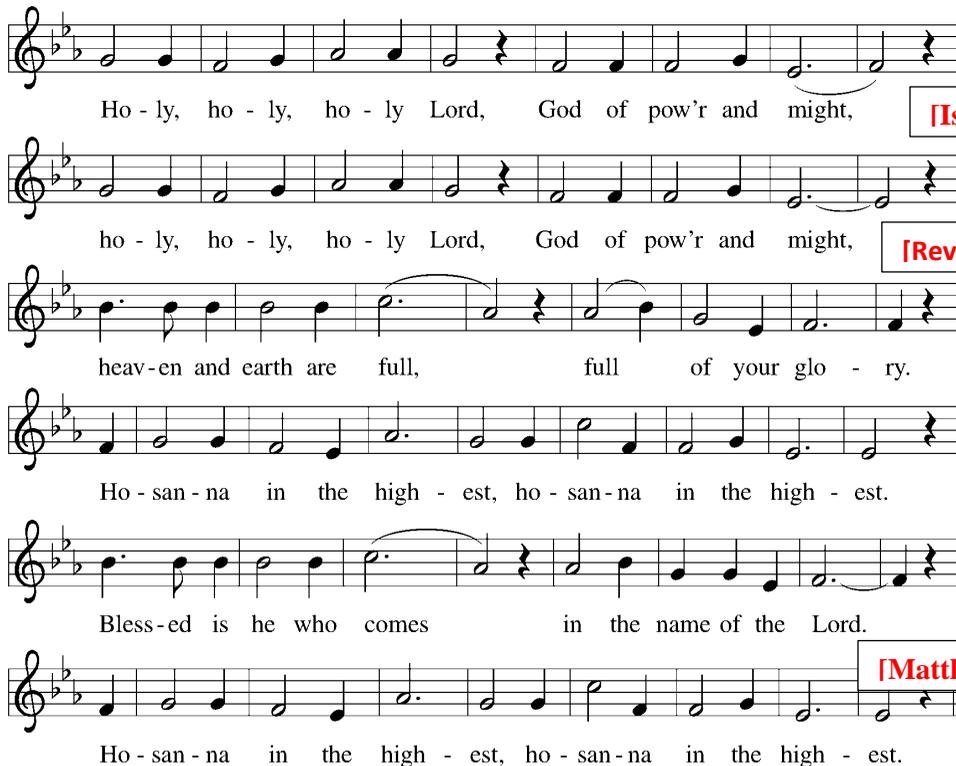
HOLY COMMUNION



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

SANCTUS



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.*

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Agnus Dei”

[John 1 :29]

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.

“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW 886

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.
- 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.
- 4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.
- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Refrain

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**1 Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. *Refrain***

**2 If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all." *Refrain***

**3 Don't ever be discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge
he'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain***

Text: African American spiritual

(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

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

✝ ✝ ✝

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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 22, 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

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. 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. Volunteers may also hand out bags if they are so called. Please consider coming to help on Monday morning. You may come anytime between 7:30 AM and 1:00 PM. 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.

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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike and Family.

Laurine Savine's 95th birthday is today! Happy birthday Laurine!

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

Saturday Attendance: 36

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 89 11:00: 62

Total: 187

Pantry Guests Served: 201

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 35

Offering:

\$6,726.54 (Regular) \$2,226.03 (Specials)

\$497.00 (Phase 2)

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