

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

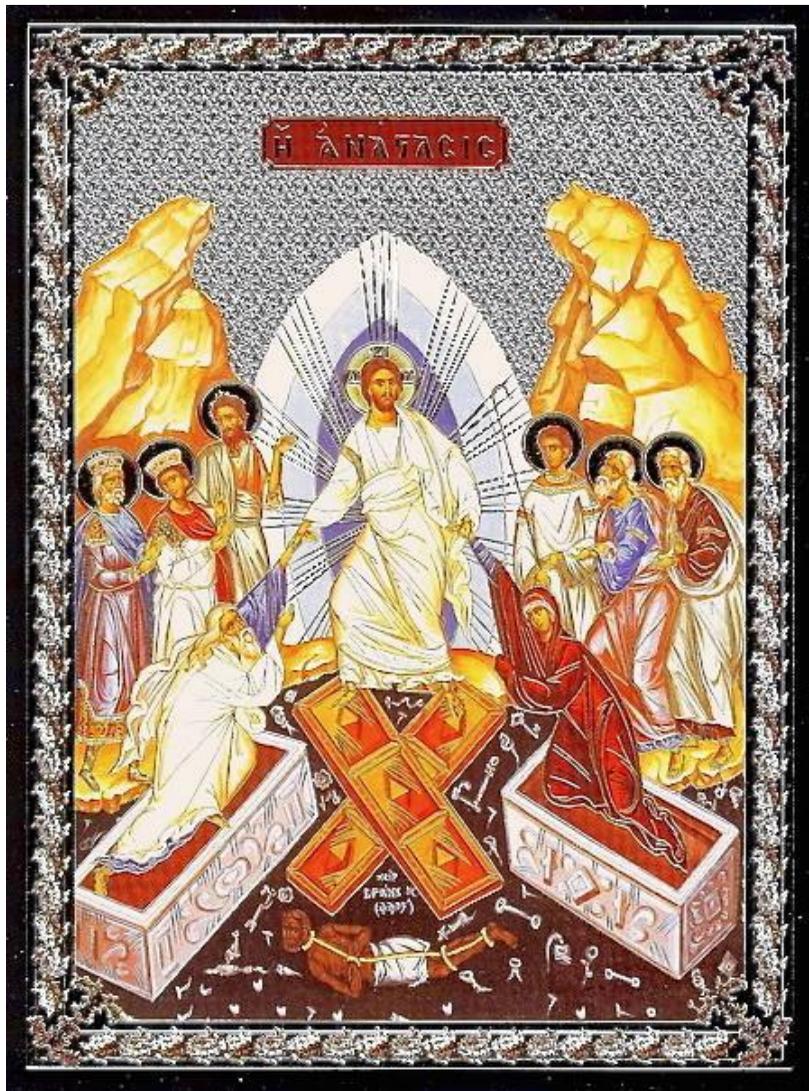
A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

April 12, 2020

9:00 AM



GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(stand)

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION!

- Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
 Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
 Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

ELW 365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God,

C you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we will live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

Peter began to speak to [the people]: *"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL PROCESSION

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St John.



☑ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

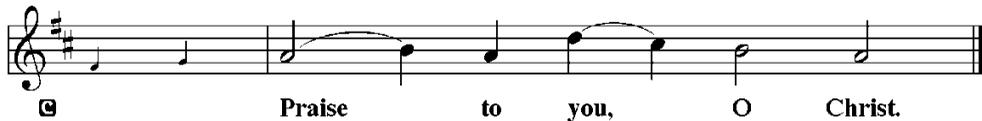
John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand

the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “*Woman, why are you weeping?*” She said to them, “*They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.*” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “*Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?*” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “*Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.*” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “*Mary!*” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “*Rabbouni!*” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “*Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’*” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “*I have seen the Lord*”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

☐ The Gospel of our Lord



SERMON

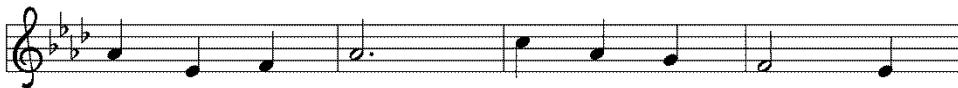
Bishop Brian Maas

(stand)

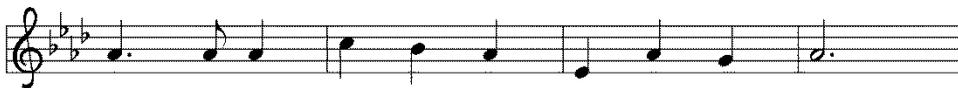
HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

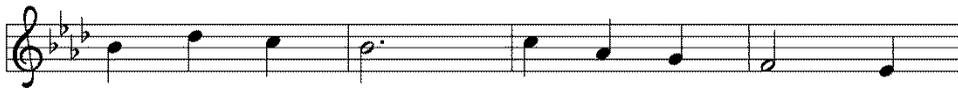
ELW 377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

NICENE CREED

**☩ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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: Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Carol Coffey, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Dolores Hiatt, Beth & Richard Holzer, sister & father of James Holzer, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Lara & Olivia McCormick, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Sheri Tipton, Joyce Wachal, Ed & Darlene White, Joanne Worm

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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

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

MEAL

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!.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"

from *Messiah*
G.F. Handel

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

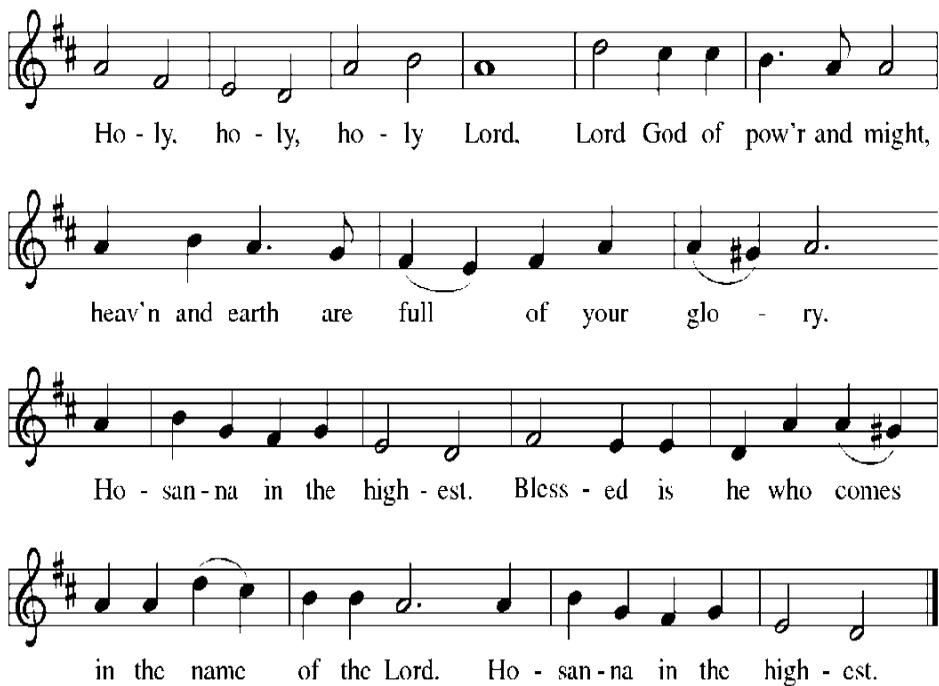
- ☐ Merciful God,
- ☑ our ordinary gifts seem so small in light of your Easter gift, but you make of them and abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

SANCTUS



Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓟ Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.
- Ⓞ **Amen.**
- Ⓟ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Ⓟ For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- Ⓞ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- Ⓟ Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.
- Ⓞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- Ⓟ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
- Ⓞ **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**
- Ⓟ Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
- Ⓞ **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come to the banquet.
C We receive the risen Christ!

(sit)

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, grant us peace.

THE BLESSING

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Dearest Lord Jesus,

☑ we believe that you are present in the Lord's Supper. We love you above all things, and we earnestly desire to receive you. Since we cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you as if you are already there and we unite ourselves wholly to you. Never permit us to be separated from you. Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

☐ May the God who raised Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

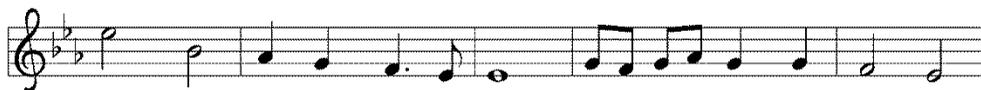
HYMN

"Thine Is the Glory"

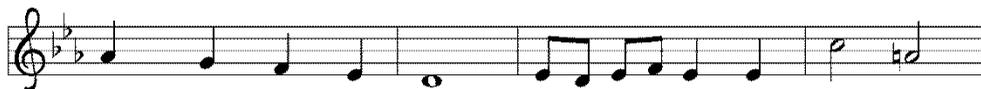
ELW 376



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

DISMISSAL

- Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

- Go in peace. Share the Easter news.
- Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist



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Be Not Afraid

Filled with great joy *and fear*? This is how Matthew's gospel (Matthew 28:1-10) describes the disciples in the moments just after they learn that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. As churches across the world today fill with people, flowers, and music, an almost palpable sense of joy seems to fill the air . . . but fear? Where does fear fit into today's celebration?

Below the surface of the festivities, we all harbor far more fear than our Sunday best might reveal, as you take your place among this Christian assembly, the community around you is full of other people who struggle with fear, worry, and anxiety. Today in this assembly, there is fear about money, fear about relationships, fear about the larger changes taking place in our world, fear about belonging and being loved, fear about being good enough, smart enough, or talented enough, fear about illness and death, fear of being judged, even fear of religion and the church. Today's gospel shows us that we are not alone in our fear, even as they rejoiced, the first disciples were afraid—afraid of the unknown, afraid of ways they had let Jesus down, afraid of what was coming next for them.

But to all of us, both the angels and Jesus himself, say "*Do not be afraid!*" In his human life, Jesus experienced the great fears we all live with every day. On the cross he faced the pain and suffering our greatest fears bring. But when he emptied the tomb on Easter morning, he also emptied the death of its sting and our fears of their bite. Strengthened by each other, we are bold to problem that in Christ's victory, every path of death has been opened to ne life. In every action of today's worship, we build up one another's faith and confidence that because Christ lives, our fears are coming to an end.



Easter 2020

Lilies are given to the glory of God...

in memory of:

- our Uncle Tom Sullivan – we miss you given by Brett, Jack, & grandma Kathe Bailey
- our grandma Jane – we miss you given by Brett, Jack, & grandma Kathe Bailey
- our grandma Marge – we miss you given by Brett, Jack, & grandma Kathe Bailey
- John Bogue given by Debbie Bogue & family
- Dwaine Carlson.....given by wife, Ellie
- Lawrence & Marion Cookegiven by Warren Cooke
- Thelma & Joe Councill, Marie & Ed Debus given by Joe Councill family
- Pat & Lou Granneman, Jackie & Stephanie McCoy given by Joe Councill family
- Hap Engelkamp..... given by Keith & Gretchen Engelkamp
- loved ones given by Gloria Erickson
- Kelcey Renae Fike given by Mary Jo Fike and family
- Randall Fike..... given by Mary Jo Fike and family
- Mildred & Harry Herzoggiven by Norman & Carol Herzog
- Oleva & Paul Frygiven by Norman & Carol Herzog
- Cathy Zinn & Joe Kubat..... given by Marie & Jack Kubat
- Donna & Russ Olson given by Steve Olson
- Joe Olson given by Steve Olson
- my parents, Don & Jean Nippert given by Marvin & Kris Olson
- our grandparents..... given by Marvin & Kris Olson
- our parents and Pat's sister given by Robert & Pat Ranney
- Barbara Saklar..... given by Tracey Saklar, Kris Placzek and family
- Charles & Augusta Laushman given by Tracey Saklar, Kris Placzek and family
- Joy Beavers given by Tracey Saklar, Kris Placzek and family
- Nadine Saklar..... given by Tracey Saklar, Kris Placzek and family
- in memory of George & Corky Boonstra given by the Paul Sum family
- in memory of Carl and Dean Sum..... given by the Paul Sum family
- my grandparents and loved ones given by Allyson White

In honor of:

- all of the amazing Kountze volunteers given by Debbie Bogue
- our grandchildren, Joey, Jackson, Lilly, and Ty..... given by Patt & Joe Councill
- our grandchildren given by Marvin & Kris Olson
- Paul & Dotty Sum given by their family
- my parents, Ed & Darlene White..... given by Allyson White

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

April 12, 2020

Alleluia!

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—note additional day & time (Friday Pantry hours are 6:00 - 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. 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!

Shoppers Needed for deFreese Manor Residents

For the time being, deFreese Manor will not be taking residents on the bus to the grocery store. However, residents still need groceries. If you like grocery shopping and would be able to help in this way, please contact Sharon West at 402-212-4531 or swest@defreese Manor.org

Today at Kountze

Television Broadcast

Our broadcast this Easter morning is sponsored by Karen and Shirley Bonneau in memory of their parents.

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:

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 12 Online: 244

Pantry Guests Served: 306

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 22

Offering:

\$19,874.00 (Regular) \$3,401.76 (Specials)

\$1,797.00 (Phase 2)

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything.

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

Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Christ's resurrection
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	John 20:1-18	The resurrection of Jesus
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-6	Israel will return to God
Thursday	Colossians 3:1-4	New life in Christ
Friday	Isaiah 25:6-9	The Lord has saved us
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord is always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes



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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

“So they [Mary Magdalene and the other Mary] left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.” Matthew 28:8-9 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to live each day knowing and trusting that Jesus' resurrection changes everything we experience around us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as our Lord Jesus Christ ate with Peter and the other disciples after he rose from the dead, be with us now in this meal. Amen. (Acts 10:41)

A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Lord Jesus Christ be your strength and the power of your

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

- What happens during an earthquake? Have you experienced one? If so, tell about it.
- Tell or think about a time in your life when something happened that “shook” you up.
- How do you think Jesus' resurrection shakes up the way God cares for us and all people?

Read: Matthew 28:1-10.

Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” go to the empty tomb. The second Mary is likely Jesus' mother (see Matthew 13:55 and 27:56 where Jesus' mother is described as the mother of James and Joseph). It is surprising that this second Mary is not named as the mother of Jesus. It appears that the emphasis is not on her biological relationship to Jesus but Mary as a follower of Jesus. She is now a disciple. Jesus' resurrection changes and shakes up everything, including our relationships to others. This is something suggested by the earthquake and the angel of the Lord that descends and whose appearance is like lightning (28:2-3). The resurrection of Jesus connects heaven and earth in a way that shakes up everything for the followers of Jesus and for all of creation itself. How does Jesus' resurrection change everything? How does it change you?

Pray: Risen Lord Jesus, come into my life this day that I may be changed to live for you. Amen.

Natural disasters occur regularly around the world. The aftermath of floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes or typhoons change people's lives drastically. There are many organizations that provide help for these victims. Have you ever helped during a recovery? How might you support this work?

Write the numbers one through ten on separate pieces of small paper. Fold each number and place them in ten different colored plastic eggs along with a sweet treat. Hide the eggs and have a hunt. After they are found, open each egg and take the contents out. Ask who has number one and then read Matthew 28:1. Continue the numbers in order as verses 2-10 from Matthew 28 are read. When finished say together: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! (say three times, each time getting louder) salvation now and always. (Psalm 118:14)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31