

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

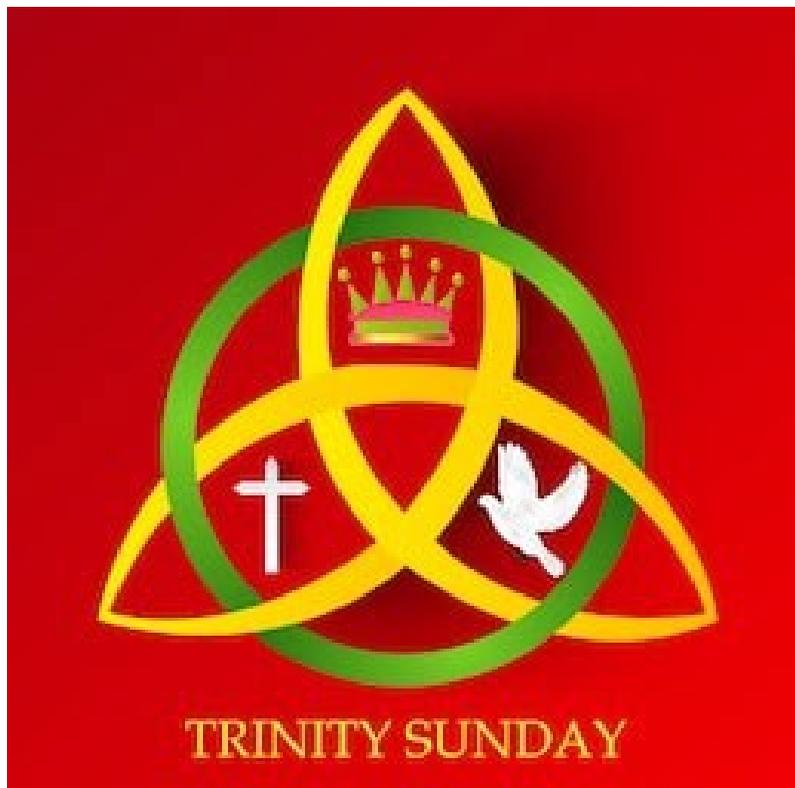
A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
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Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

June 7, 2020

9:00 AM



*Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.*

# 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, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**G** Amen.

**P** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

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

**P** Reconciling God,

**G** we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.

We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we will live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

**P** Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"*

ELW 413

**1** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**2** Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the  
glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before  
thee,  
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

**3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.**

**4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth  
and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

## 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty Creator and ever-living God,
- C** we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, deend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless oy and love, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Genesis 1:1—2:4a**

*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.*

**I**n the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “*Let there be light*”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “*Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.*” <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, “*Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.*” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, “*Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.*” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “*Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,*” <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the

day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, “*Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.*” <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, “*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.*” <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, “*Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.*” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “*Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.*”

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, “*Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.*” <sup>29</sup>God said, “*See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.*” <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Ⓕ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM 8** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

<sup>2</sup>**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens  
out of the mouths of infants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.

**<sup>6</sup>You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,

**<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord,  
**how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

## SECOND READING

**2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

*Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.*

**P**aul writes: <sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

<sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*(stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 28:16-20**

*After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**N**ow the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## **CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)**

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

## **SERMON**

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"*

**ELW 517**

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your Son  
and bring to naught all he has done.**
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,  
for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your holy church, that we  
may sing your praise eternally.**
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife  
and lead us out of death to life.**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## **THE ATHANASIAN CREED**

- ¶** Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the catholic faith. Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith:
- ☒** **We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity,  
neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.  
For the Father is one person, the Son is another,  
and the Spirit is still another.  
But the deity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty.  
What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.**
- ¶** Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit.  
The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite.
- ☒** **Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit:  
And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal;  
as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings,  
but one who is uncreated and unlimited.**

- Ⓟ Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit:  
And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.
- Ⓞ **Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God:  
And yet there are not three gods, but one God.  
Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord:  
And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord.**
- Ⓟ As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord,  
so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.
- Ⓞ **The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten;  
the Son was neither made nor created,  
but was alone begotten of the Father;  
the Spirit was neither made nor created,  
but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.  
Thus there is one Father, not three fathers;  
one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.**
- Ⓟ And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are  
in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one God  
in three persons.
- Ⓟ Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.  
It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe  
that our Lord Jesus became flesh.
- Ⓞ **For this is the true faith that we believe and confess:  
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.  
He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father,  
and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother--  
existing fully as God, and fully as man  
with a rational soul and a human body;  
equal to the Father in divinity,  
subordinate to the Father in humanity.**
- Ⓟ Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.  
He is united because God has taken humanity into himself;  
he does not transform deity into humanity.  
He is completely one in the unity of his person,  
without confusing his natures.  
For as the rational soul and body are one person,  
so the one Christ is God and man
- Ⓞ **He suffered death for our salvation.  
He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
At his coming all people shall rise bodily  
to give an account of their own deeds.  
Those who have done good will enter eternal life,  
those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.  
This is the catholic faith.  
One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully.**

*(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 Rosemarie Schmidt

**Illness:** Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Carol Coffey, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Sherry Henneman, mother of Scott Henneman, Dolores Hiatt, Beth, Betty & Richard Holzer & Betty Gura, family of James Holzer, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, Ed & Darlene White, Kimberly Wilson, 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, Joel Woosley

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

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

## **WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

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

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

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Go Ye Into All the World”*

James McGranahan  
Kevin Larkowski, soloist

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(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

- ☐ God of goodness and growth,
- ☑ **all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we will proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

- 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 HOLY TRINITY

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
almighty and merciful God.  
You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor,  
one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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** Friends of Jesus, come to his table.

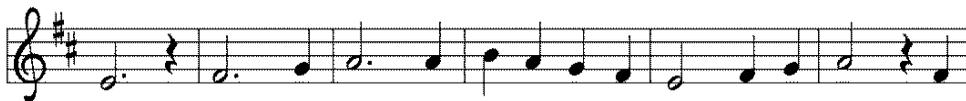
**C** **We receive nourishment for our journey.**

*(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.

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of the welcome table,  
**G** **in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower u to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we will share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

- P** Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Almighty God, Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit bless you now and keep you in eternal love.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### HYMN

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

**ELW 885**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

### DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you always.  
**G** **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

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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 until further notice. 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

June 7, 2020

## 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). The Kountze Food Pantry is operating as usual during the COVID-19 closings. We have modified our service to protect the volunteers and guests. It is important to limit the number of volunteers we have in the building at one time, so it is important you sign up at the link below, for a specific time if you plan on volunteering. We are in need of volunteers in May. You may sign up for 7:30—9:00 AM, which is specifically for unloading trucks and restocking. 9:00—11:00 AM is for filling sacks and distribution. 11:00 AM—1:00 PM is for distribution to guests. We also have a Friday evening service from 5:00—8:00 PM. We will be closed on Memorial Day. Please consider joining us!

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



## Attendance and Giving

**Online Attendance:** 214

**Pantry Guests Served:** 596

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 31

**Offering:**

\$9,567.00 (Regular)      \$618.76 (Specials)

\$332.00 (Phase 2)

## Today at Kountze

### Sunday School

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

In Peace,  
Kristin

**Youth Forum** will be at 10:30 AM via Zoom. Contact Mike Jensen at [mwjensen@yahoo.com](mailto:mwjensen@yahoo.com) for details.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Joel & Esther Fischer's 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary given by Jane & Ralph Ross

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in honor of Joel & Esther Fischer's 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary given by Jane & Ralph Ross



*We have important work to do.*



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

Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples
Monday	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	God creates everything
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Live in peace
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Friday	Genesis 9:1-7	The covenant with Noah
Saturday	Psalms 8	Wonderful name of the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 9:35-10:23	The sending of the twelve

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You have given them [human beings] dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.  
**Psalm 8:6 (NRSV)**

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

Almighty and living God, we thank you that you have given us dominion over all you have made. Help us to care for creation and for all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, the works of your hands have placed all things under our feet. Help us remember and always give thanks for the foods we eat. Amen.

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

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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

- When have you been given responsibility to care for something very important?
- How do you care for God's creation?
- You have been created in the image of God to care for others. Tell or think about a story of how you cared for someone or someone cared for you.

*Read:* Genesis 1:1-2:4a.

The goodness of creation is described through the harmony of creation: there is a greater light (sun) in balance with a lesser light (moon); earth, sea, and sky work together; the earth brings forth living creatures of every kind; and, it is all good. God creates a world to enjoy and a world we are to care for (1:27-30). God's reign on earth will happen through human beings, the creatures to whom God has uniquely given God's image. The creation story gives us a dignity and an assignment to care for all creation (see Psalm 8). We celebrate the Trinity this Sunday as a reminder of our relationship to God, the one who created us in the image of God to go out and care for the world. In this same spirit, Jesus sends out his followers to serve in the image of God and do the work of Christ in the world to recreate, redeem, and sustain all that God made. Reflect on how God sends you out to care for the earth.

*Pray:* **Dear Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you made us to be creatures of dignity and responsibility; bless us now to live as your chosen ones. Amen.**

God gave us "every plant yielding seed", "every tree with seed in its fruit", and "every green plant for food" (Genesis 1:29-30). Keeping soil healthy contributes to a living ecosystem and enables food production. There are ways to restore nutrient-poor fields to their natural productive abilities. Visit a local organic farm association or master gardener to learn about food conservation. How can you support their efforts?

This is Trinity Sunday. In the word Trinity, "tri" means "three" and "unity" means one. Draw a triangle on a piece of paper. Write Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in each of the corners. Think or talk about what each one means to you. In the center of the triangle draw a heart and write the word love. Pray: **Dear God, we praise you for your abundant love. Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us. Please help us to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]