

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

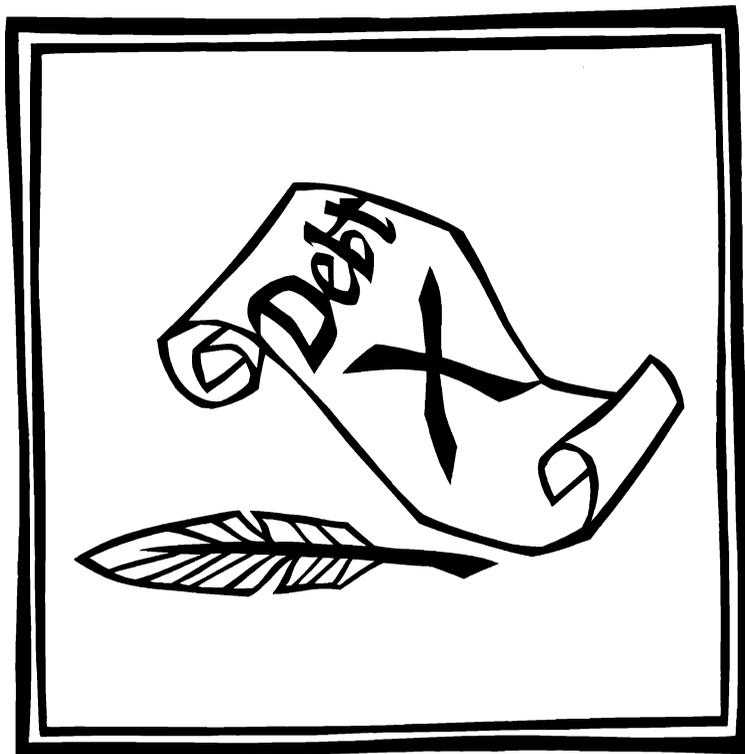
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

September 13, 2020

9:00 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

# 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 creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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

**P** Faithful God,

**C** have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P** God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**C** Amen.

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the virgin's Son,  
the God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson trophies won  
which now his brow adorn;  
fruit of the mystic rose,  
yet of that rose the stem,  
the root whence mercy ever flows,  
the babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love--  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bend their burning eyes  
at mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
who died and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
the creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail  
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5;  
Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

- 1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. ☞
- 2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. ☞
- 3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. ☞
- 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. ☞

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ O Lord God, merciful judge,

☞ **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we will delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

**R**ealizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 103:1-13 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

## THE SECOND READING

**Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

**W**elcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

(stand)

## 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. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

**P**eter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING

## SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

**ELW 606**

- 1 Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;  
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,  
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.**
- 2 And now at length discerning the evil that we do,  
behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,  
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**
- 3 O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord,  
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006  
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and Service Music for the Liturgy* ©  
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## 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Response:** ☐ Lord, in your mercy,  
☑ **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 Lois Carlsen; to the family and friends of Barb McLemore, service coordinator of deFreese Manor

**Illness:** Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Karen Bucholz, Don Burton, Carol Coffey, Emilia & Shirley Dietrich, Joe Doremus, Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Richard Holzer, father of James Holzer, Renee Johnson, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Johnson, Rod Kamrad, partner of Ken Johnson and Ron Brown, Marcie Lafleur, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, Paul Sueper, step-grandfather of Melissa Osentowski, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, Ed & Darlene White, Kimberly Wilson, Debra Woosley, Joanne Worm, Mary Yocum

**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; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarists*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

## WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

- 📄 The peace of Christ be with you always.
- 📄 **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

*“Not Too Far From Here”*

Dayle Johnson, *soloist*  
Jean Johnson, *pianist*

### THE TABLE IS PREPARED

*(stand)*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

**ELW 184**



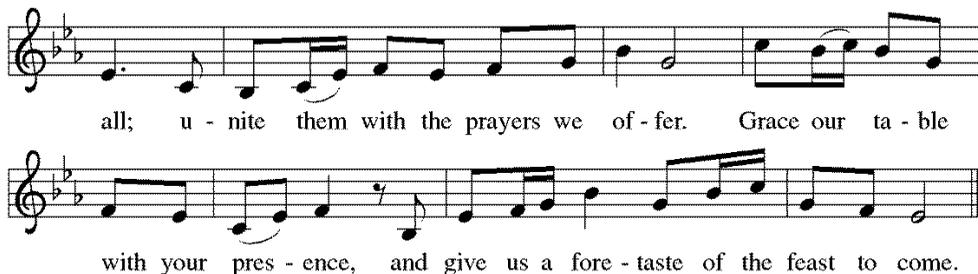
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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

- P** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
- C** **You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

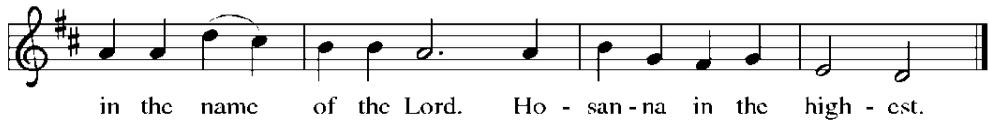
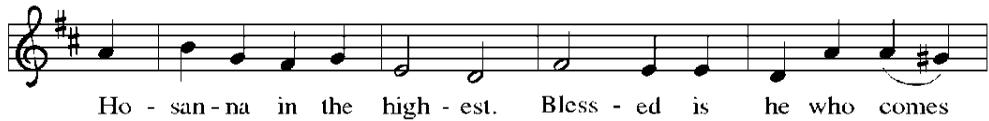
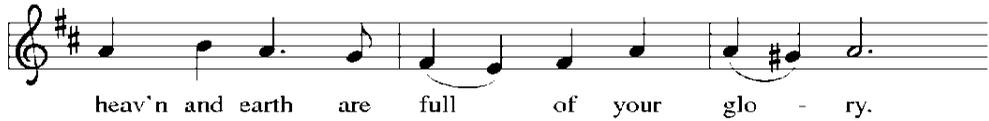
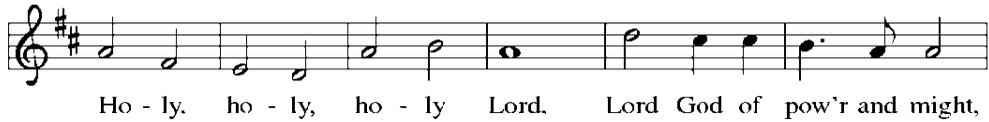
## HOLY COMMUNION

- 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 TIME AFTER PENTECOST

- 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



## 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** Come to the banquet table

**C** where Jesus Christ gives himself as food and drink.

(sit)

## AGNUS DEI



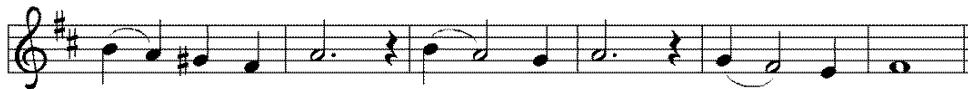
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

ELW 471

**1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.**

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.**

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

**When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.**

*Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** We give you thanks, gracious God,

**C** that you once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“On Our Way Rejoicing”*

**ELW 537**

- 1 On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?**

*Refrain*

**On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!**

- 2 Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing now and evermore. *Refrain***

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

✠ ✠ ✠

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## Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still 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)

September 13, 2020

## Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

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

**Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM**

The Kountze Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. We were blessed to have some lovely, enthusiastic and energetic young people join us over the summer. As they have returned to school, we are short staffed. Please consider volunteering on Monday morning from 7:30 AM—9:00 AM, Monday 9:00 AM—11:00 AM, Monday 11:00 AM—1:00 PM, or Friday evening 4:00 PM—7:00 PM. We have a good time, and Barb still makes us cookies! You may sign up for a time slot at the link below:

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

## Extra! Extra! Read All About it!

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church to Hold Annual “Modified” Picnic/Tailgate Sunday September 27— Please RSVP by noon on September 18—Wear a Mask 5:30 PM - West Parking Lot**

Mark your calendars, call in your reservation, pack the lawn chairs, card table, blanket, wet wipes, and the cooler. This year we will be having the picnic here at the Church in the West parking lot. When you arrive (Douglas Street “North” Entrance) the parking lot attendants will direct you to a parking spot and show you where you can unload and set up, there will be a

car width between families/attendees in order to give everyone plenty of physical distance. Please wear a mask when not eating.

Once you’re settled in, someone will take your order (white or dark meat) and relay it to our servers. A Chicken dinner with scalloped potatoes and green beans along with a cookie for dessert (BYOD - bring your own drinks) will be delivered to your car. We’ll picnic for an hour or so. Restrooms (in the lower Kountze Commons area) are for emergency use only. We need an accurate count of those attending for food planning and parking as we have a limited number of parking spots available. **Reservations need to be made no later than Noon on Friday September 18**, call the Church office or e-mail [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to make your reservation, please indicate the number of people coming and general preference of white or dark meat chicken.

We could use a few volunteers to help with parking, trash, etc. Please let us know if you can help out when you make your reservations.

## Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Russ Van Horn by the Grassmeyer Family

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored by Mary Olson in honor of all the first responders and all who have worked through the pandemic

## Attendance and Giving

**Online Attendance:** 127

**9:00 AM Attendance:** (Reservation Only) 54

**Pantry Guests Served:** 207

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 25

**Offering:**

\$22,819.00 (Regular)      \$1,833.65 (Specials)

\$1,467.00 (Phase 2)



Worshipping Together  
When We're Apart  
From One Another

## *The people of God forgive.*

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge another
Wednesday	Exodus 14:19-31	Crossing the Red Sea
Thursday	Psalms 114	The Lord works wonders
Friday	John 8:1-11	Jesus intercedes for a woman
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers



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Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases. **Psalm 103:2-3 (NRSV)**

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

Gracious God, we praise you for your desire to forgive; help us to love and forgive as we are loved and forgiven through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

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

May the forgiveness of God bless you with steadfast love and mercy. (Psalm 103:4)

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

- What does forgiveness mean to you? Give an example.
- Was there ever a time when you could not forgive someone? Explain.
- How is God's forgiveness a gift to you? to the church? to the world?

*Read:* Matthew 18:21-35.

Jesus presents a very unreal story to make a very real point. In Jesus' day, each talent was worth more than 15 years of work. Therefore, one slave owed over 150,000 years of income while the other owed one hundred days of wages (a denarius was one day's wage). The differences are extreme to make the point that God's forgiveness of us is wildly out-of-this-world and wonderful. It leads the follower of Jesus Christ to sing or pray Psalm 103 that begins, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (v. 1). A concrete way to praise God is to "forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:35) and do so again and again and again (v. 22). Or, as Jesus suggests, do you want to consider the consequences of not showing a little forgiveness to others? That lack of forgiveness Jesus says, would destroy your life (vv. 34-35). How can you praise God today by forgiving someone who has offended or hurt you? How does this parable help bring joy to your soul?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, give me faith to remember how kind and generous you are to me and to praise you by being kind and forgiving to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think of someone who needs your forgiveness. Pray for that person. Reflect on God's love and mercy shown through people like Joseph and write a note of forgiveness to that person.

Forgiveness is the theme this week in Bible readings, caring conversations, devotions, and service. Breaking a plate, saying something mean, and telling a lie are things we may not mean to do, but they happen. Think of a time when you needed to be forgiven. God forgives us again and again. Think about what this means to you. Pray the Lord's Prayer, pause as you pray, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us", then finish the prayer.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16