

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

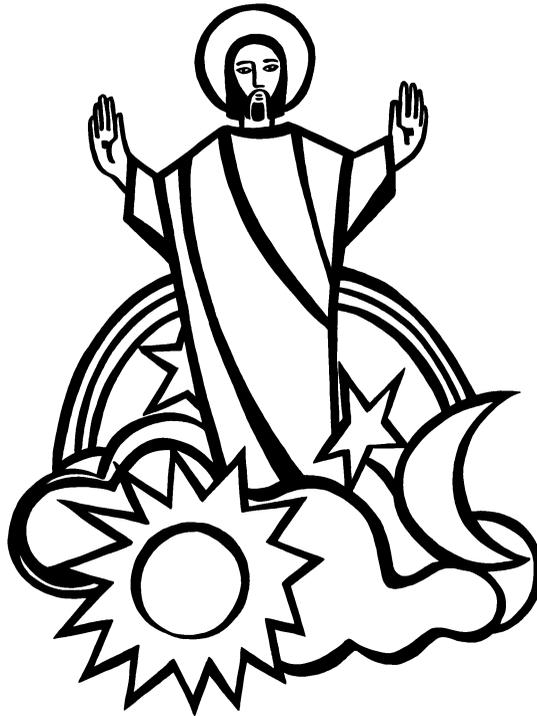
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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

November 29, 2020

9:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT



*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Mark Jones, organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

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

**P** Loving and forgiving God,

**C** we confess that we are held captive by sin.

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**

**We have not welcomed the stranger;**

**we have not loved our neighbor;**

**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

**P** People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- 1** Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;  
the King of glory comes in state;  
the Lord of lords and King of kings,  
the Savior of the world who brings  
his great salvation to the earth.  
So raise a shout of holy mirth  
and praise our God and Lord,  
Creator, Spirit, Word.
- 2** He is the rock of our belief,  
the heart of mercy's gentle self.  
His kingly crown is holiness;  
his scepter is his loveliness;  
he brings our sorrows to an end.  
Now gladly praise our king and friend,  
and worship him with song  
for saving us from wrong.
- 3** Oh, happy towns and blessed lands  
that live by their true king's commands.  
And blessed be the hearts he rules,  
the humble places where he dwells.  
He is the rightful Son of bliss  
who fills our lives and makes us his,  
creator of the world,  
our only strength for good.
- 4** Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
our hearts are open wide in trust.  
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,  
upon our sorrows shine your face,  
and let your Holy Spirit guide  
our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name,  
from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

- P** Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.
- C** O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

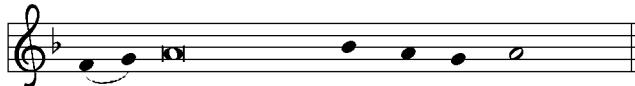


He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## 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.

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



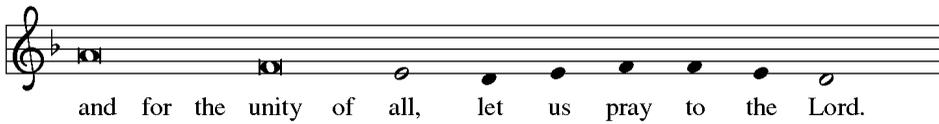
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



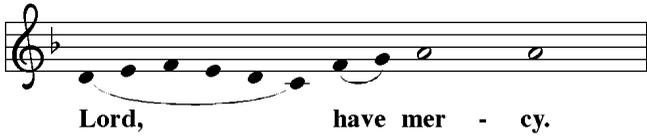
Lord, have mer - cy.



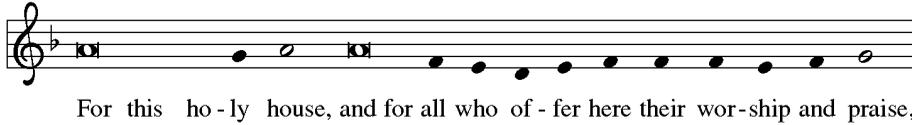
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



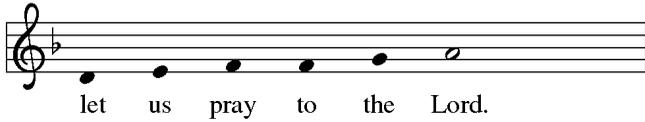
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



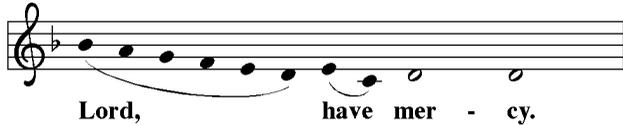
Lord, have mer - cy.



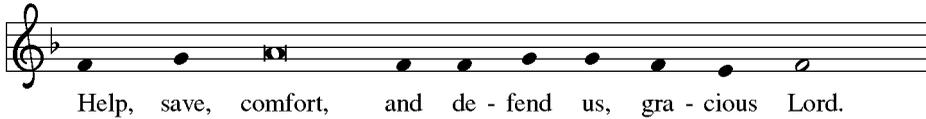
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,



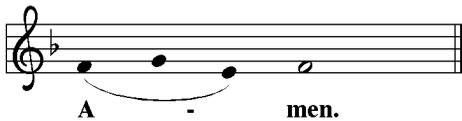
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
- ☑ **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

- O** that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** (read responsively)

- <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

## THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

**J**esus said : <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING

## SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

ELW 241

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,<br/>how welcome you aright?<br/>Your people long to greet you,<br/>my hope, my heart's delight!<br/>Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,<br/>your lamp within my breast<br/>to do in spirit lowly<br/>all that may please you best.</b></p> <p><b>2 I lay in fetters, groaning;<br/>you came to set me free.<br/>I stood, my shame bemoaning;<br/>you came to honor me.<br/>A glorious crown you give me,<br/>a treasure safe on high<br/>that will not fail or leave me<br/>as earthly riches fly.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Love caused your incarnation;<br/>love brought you down to me.<br/>Your thirst for my salvation<br/>procured my liberty.<br/>Oh, love beyond all telling,<br/>that led you to embrace<br/>in love, all love excelling,<br/>our lost and fallen race.</b></p> <p><b>4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,<br/>who sit in deepest gloom,<br/>who mourn your joys departed<br/>and tremble at your doom.<br/>All hail the Lord's appearing!<br/>O glorious Sun, now come,<br/>send forth your beams so cheering<br/>and guide us safely home.</b></p> |
|--|--|

## **THE NICENE CREED**

- P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.  
**C** **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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Response:**    **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **G** 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:** Richard Bock, Don Burton, Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Ranae Gardner, Samuel Garrett, Richard Holzer, father of James Holzer, Renee Johnson, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Johnson, Harlan Kirkvold, father of Steve Kirkvold, Marcie Lafleur, Tim Mathisen, friend of Debbie Bogue, Mary Olson, Gary Rodene, Phoebe Stanga, niece of Karen & Shirley Bonneau, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, Charlie Wachholtz, Ed & Darlene White, Robert Whitehead, Kimberly Wilson, Joanne Worm

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, 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:** *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

## WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**G** 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

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Kevin Larkowski, soloist

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Generous God,  
**C** you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

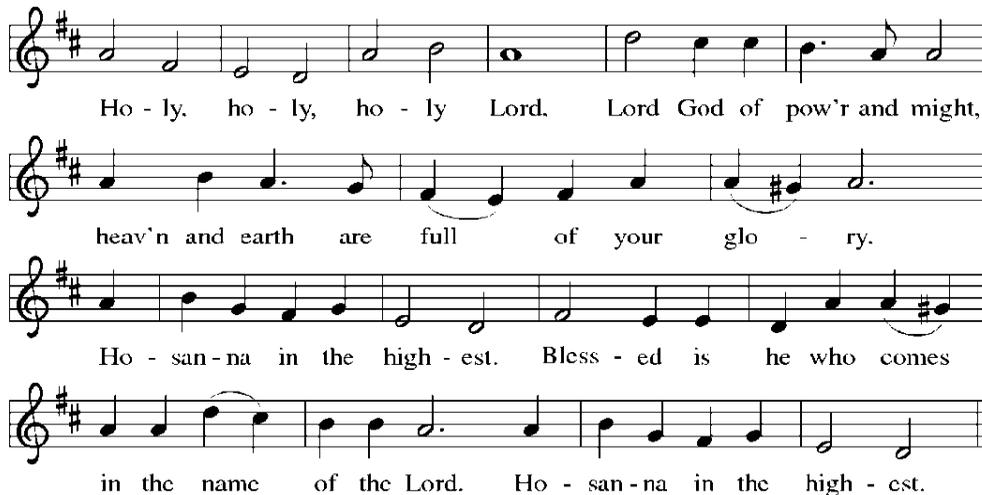
## HOLY COMMUNION

- 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 ADVENT

- 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. You comforted us, your people, with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so 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** Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.

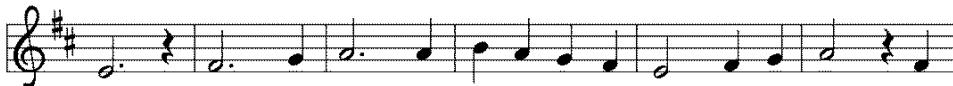
**C** **Come, eat and drink.**

*(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.

**1** Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

**2** Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

**3** Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3;  
Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite

Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com

*"Thee We Adore, O Savior"*

**1** Thee we adore, O Savior, God most true,  
thy glory clothed in bread and wine anew;  
our hearts to thee in true devotion bow,  
in humble awe, we hail thy presence now.

**2** O true remembrance of Christ crucified,  
the bread of life to us for whom he died;  
lend us this life then; feed and feast our mind,  
be thou the sweetness we were meant to find.

**3** Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God,  
cleanse us, O Christ, with thy most cleansing  
blood:  
increase our faith and love, that we may know  
the hope and peace which from thy presence  
flow.

**4** Jesus, by faith we see thee here below;  
send us, we pray thee, what we thirst for so:  
someday to gaze upon thy face in light,  
blest evermore with thy full glory's sight.  
Amen.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1274;

tr. Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844-1889, and James R. Woodford, 1820-1885, alt.

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Gracious and abundant God,  
**G** you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

- P** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### HYMN

*“Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”*

ELW 327

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,<br/>onward goes the pilgrim band,<br/>singing songs of expectation,<br/>marching to the promised land.<br/>Clear before us through the darkness<br/>gleams and burns the guiding light;<br/>pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim<br/>stepping fearless through the night.</p> <p>2 One the light of God's own presence<br/>on the ransomed people shed,<br/>chasing far the gloom and terror,<br/>bright'ning all the path we tread.<br/>One the object of our journey,<br/>one the faith which never tires,<br/>one the earnest looking forward,<br/>one the hope our God inspires.</p> | <p>3 One the strain that lips of thousands<br/>lift as from the heart of one;<br/>one the conflict, one the peril,<br/>one the march in God begun.<br/>One the gladness of rejoicing<br/>on the far eternal shore,<br/>where the one almighty Father<br/>reigns in love forevermore.</p> <p>4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;<br/>onward, with the cross our aid.<br/>Bear its shame, and fight its battle<br/>till we rest beneath its shade.<br/>Soon shall come the great awak'ning;<br/>soon the rending of the tomb!<br/>Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,<br/>and the end of toil and gloom.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862;  
tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

### DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**G** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

## 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 Saturday or 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)

November 28 & 29, 2020

### Kountze Food Pantry Need Personal Care Items & 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 asking for full-sized, personal care and hygiene products to give out in lieu of the holiday bags we have given to our guests in the past. We would like to include an all-in-one shampoo/conditioner, bar soap or body wash, toothbrush and paste, razor and shave cream. Of course, toilet tissue is always needed. Thank you! If you would like to volunteer please sign up at the following link:

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

### Pledge Cards

you haven't returned your pledge cards yet we ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Kountze's mission and ministry for the coming year, as well as addressing our debt, and return your pledge cards to Kountze as soon as possible either at worship or by mailing them to the church. Thank you!

### Simply Giving

Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if there are any changes to be made, whether increasing, decreasing, or stopping the automatic giving, you may go online and make this change yourself, or indicate this change to the church office in writing or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. Please send an email to [noni@kmlchurch.org](mailto:noni@kmlchurch.org) or complete a new Simply Giving form and turn it into the office so we can make those changes. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, please call the church office.

### Mid-Week Advent Worship Services

December 2 "Adventuring into Advent"  
December 9 "On Being Prepared"  
December 16 "Mary's Song"  
December 23 "Joseph"

Paul Rath will serve as Cantor for Holden Evening Prayer. These services will be in-person and livestreamed. Those wishing to be in-person should register by the Tuesday

prior to the service and again enter through the west Kountze Commons doors.

### Today at Kountze

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in celebration of Carl & Kathy Englert's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God in memory of parents, George & Edith Swanberg (91<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary) given by Marilyn VanBibber

**Television Broadcast** is sponsored in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary given by James & Margit Kegel, parents of Anne Dey

### Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as our Kountze Facebook Page.

**Zoom Codes: Meeting ID 938 1883 9381**

**Passcode: 697624**

### Adult Forum

Pr. Hall continues to post videos for a multi-week study of Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian" (1520), on a Kountze Memorial designated channel on YouTube. The YouTube link to the videos is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChalSdEjyMBKizjbGGlyfA/>

The text of "Freedom of a Christian" and the study guide are available for free on the ELCA's Reformation homepage: [www.elca500.org](http://www.elca500.org).

### Attendance and Giving

**Saturday Attendance:** 17

**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 62

**Total:** 79

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1111

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 37

**Offering:**

\$13,789.06 (Regular) \$63,678.53 (Specials)

\$1,211.00 (Debt Reduction)

\*\$61,923.60 were endowment grants to Kountze Memorial

*Stay awake, for God is coming with power.*

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Jesus is coming soon
Thursday	Micah 4:1-5	Peace and prosperity
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Children of light
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news



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*Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Mark 13:26 (NRSV)*

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

Deliver us from harm, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine on us, that we may be saved through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 80:3, 7, and 19)

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us that we may await your coming with power and glory through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

May you be blessed with hope and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

- When have you had a challenging or scary experience?
- What are some dangerous or alarming situations we face in our world today?
- Sometimes it seems easier to deny the dangers we face and pretend they are not really a problem. How does faith in Jesus give us hope and help us to face scary times?

*Read:* Mark 13:24-37.

Advent begins with an awareness of the frailty of life. We may come up with short-term fixes like finding shelter, warmth, and food. There is always the challenge of the unforeseen storm that can flood our lives with devastation, when the whole world seems to be falling down around us (vv. 24-25). No generation escapes these trials and sufferings (vv. 29-30). It happened to the people who returned from Babylonian captivity (Isaiah 64); it happened to the first Christians as noted by Mark in chapter 13; and, it happens all around the world today. What we need is the God who promises to show up and be the difference-maker. This Advent we are reminded to be alert to this God who shows up in Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus we have hope because we have the one in whom the truth of his words will never pass away, never end, never fail (v. 31). So live life with gusto, with courage, with hope, and stay awake, keep alert, don't give up (vv. 33, 35, and 37). How does public worship, reading the Bible and prayer help you stay awake to Jesus' coming into our lives?

**Pray: Almighty and living God, give us hope and confidence to await your coming into our lives with faith in your healing and renewing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Advent is a time to recall the basic needs of life: a loving and gracious God and justice and mercy that all may have enough to live. In what ways can you "stay awake" this Advent season by caring for the needs of others and providing needed resources for the homeless?

The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. This coming year, the Gospel readings will be from Mark. To launch the new church year, gather together all the Bibles in your home. If you have an Advent wreath, place the Bibles near the wreath. As you light the first candle, the candle of hope, use this prayer of blessing: **Almighty God, we thank you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Savior. Give us hope as we read, listen to, and think about what the Bible says to us in this new church year. Make us into people who are strong in our faith and full of love. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**