

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

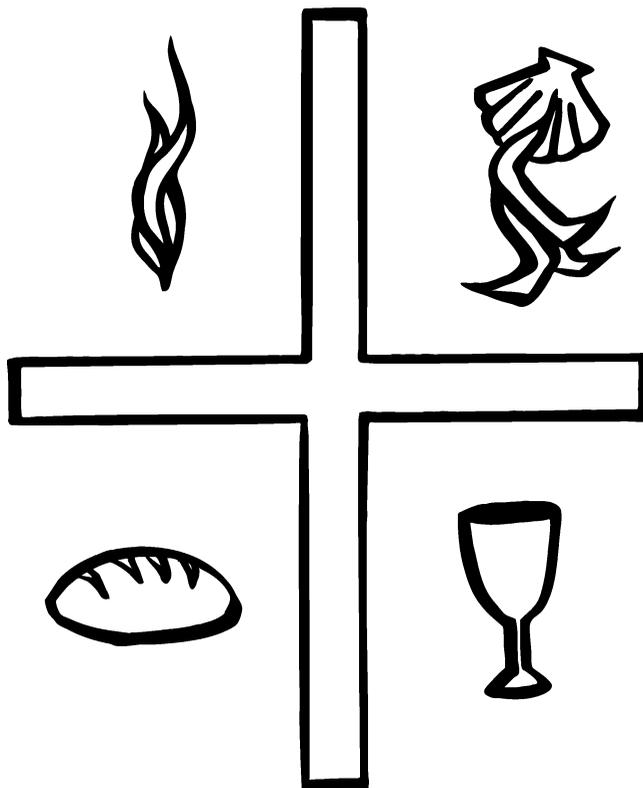
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashely Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

May 16, 2021

9:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER



The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, Holy Spirit, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we will confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing
 snowstorm!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain</p> <p><i>Refrain</i>
 God has done marvelous things.
 I too sing praises with a new song!</p> <p>2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain</p> | <p>3 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Limestone and beams! Loud building
 workers!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain</p> <p>4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test
 tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain</p> <p>5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding
 wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Text © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

EASTER GREETING

- ℘** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☞** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- ℘** 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ℘** Gracious and glorious God,
- ☞** you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we will find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“*Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.*” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “*Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.*” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1 (read responsively)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

1 John 5:9-13

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

☐ 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. John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:6-19

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

Jesus prayed: ⁶*I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.* ⁷*Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.* ⁹*I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.* ¹⁰*All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.* ¹¹*And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.* ¹²*While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.* ¹³*But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.* ¹⁴*I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.* ¹⁵*I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.* ¹⁶*They do not belong to the world, just as I do not*

belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In Christ Call to Baptize"

ELW 575

**1 In Christ called to baptize,
we witness to grace
and gather a people
from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters,
we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life,
give thanks with each breath.**

**3 In Christ called to witness,
by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel;
God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living
give proof to our praise
in costly compassion
reflecting Christ's ways.**

**2 In Christ called to banquet,
one table we share,
a haven of welcome,
a circle of care.
Although we are many,
we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving
proclaims Christ, our head.**

**4 Unite us, anoint us,
O Spirit of love,
for you are within us,
around us, above.
Equip us for service
with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling.
In Christ may we grow.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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CELEBRATION OF 2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- Ⓛ Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their faith journey. As the names of our 2021 graduates are read, we ask that they, who are present, along with their parents and families, please come forward:

Charles Campbell
Morgan Gardner
Bryce Griger
Brooks Hinricks
Rahn Johnson

Anna Kidder
Jackson Lawrence
Zachary Martens
Cameron Miller
Abigail Rigas

- Ⓟ Parents, in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. In their baptisms, sacred promises were made. As parents of these young men and women, it was part of your calling to see that those sacred promises were kept:

To live with them among God's faithful people
To bring them to the word of God and the Holy Supper
To nurture them in faith and prayer

You have fulfilled those promises. We now ask you to covenant with this congregation to continue to support the faith journey of these young men and women. As the spirit gives you ability, do you intend to support and routinely lift your children up in prayer? If so answer, "*I do and I ask God to help and guide me.*"

Parents: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

- Ⓟ Congregation, do you promise to support and encourage these parents in the keeping of these sacred promises? If so, answer, "*We will with God's help and guidance.*"
- ☑ **We will with God's help and guidance.**

- Ⓟ Graduates, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
To live among God's faithful people,
To come to the word of God and the Holy Supper,
To strive to grow in faith and prayer, so that, you might
trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and
work for justice and peace in all the world
If so, answer, "*I do and I ask God to help and guide me.*"

Graduates: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

PRAYER (graduates kneel)

P Let us pray:

Dear God of creation, we ask for your blessing on these young people as they enter a new period in their lives of faith. Bless them and grant them your gifts: confirm their faith, guide their lives, give them strength in serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to eternal life. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

PRESENTATION OF QUILTS

P The members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church present you, our high school graduates, with a symbol of the love we have for you. Each stitch of these quilts represents the love that God has given us to share with one another. At this time, we ask your parents to take these quilts and place them around you. They are symbolic of our congregation's commitment to support and equip you in carrying out the promises made in baptism.

Parents wrap the quilts around their children's shoulders

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

We come this day before you O God to bless you and thank you for the gifts you give us. You have given our lives meaning and calling. Through you, we receive the gifts of love, joy, and forgiveness. We pray that these quilts will be a reminder of the warmth of family, this faith community, and of your never-failing love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

(graduates stand and face the congregation)

P I present to the congregation, our 2021 high school graduates and their families.

P Depart in Christ's peace.

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.**

(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 Faye Kuenning, grandmother of Shane Kuenning; to the family and friends of Dorothy Vancaster

Illness: Gwen Berney, Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Sydney Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Helen Taylor, Rosemary Tessin, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Evelyn Winther, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, 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.
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 visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Fisher
Charlie Campbell, *trumpet*
Rahn Johnson, *trombone*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

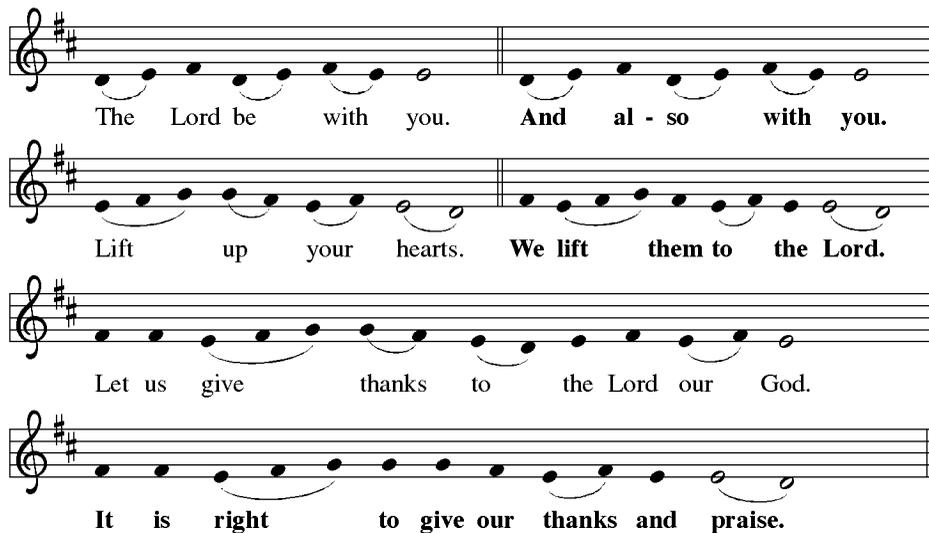
ELW 184

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

- P** God of love,
C you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

PREFACE FOR 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ The risen Christ invites us to this table.
- ☑ **Come, eat and be satisfied.**

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

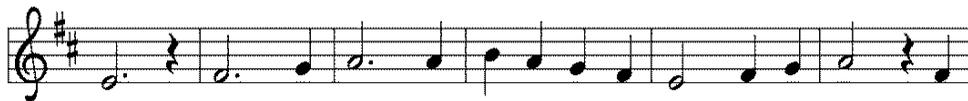
Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

(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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

Refrain

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
*Refrain***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Refrain

- One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**
- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain***
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain***
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain***

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
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COMMUNION BLESSING

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Wellspring of joy,
☑ **through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love will bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

**1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community: *Refrain***

**3 Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty: *Refrain***

**4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society: *Refrain***

**5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity: *Refrain***

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

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DISMISSAL

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed Alleluia!
- P** The worship has ended. The service begins.
- C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, organ

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

May 15 & 16, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed

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 collecting the following items: new or like new reusable tote bags (we cannot reuse plastic grocery sacks), toilet paper, cereal, and full-sized hygiene products. Please place your donated items in the shopping cart as you enter for church, in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall, or in the church office. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:

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

Sponsor Our Youth on the 2021

KMLC Summer Youth Trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma

Please consider sponsoring the 2021 Summer Youth Trip. Your donation can be placed in the offering or mail it to the church office. Make sure you mark in the memo that it is for the Mission Trip Sponsorship. Another option to give is to visit www.kmlchurch.org and click on "Online Giving" to donate on the web! Again, you will find in the section for Children and Youth Ministries the line item for Mission Trip Sponsorship. Our gift back to you will be a time to gather and share our experience of this trip with you. It would be most helpful to receive all donations by June 1. Thanks for your consideration! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shari at shari@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 25

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 112

Wednesday Attendance: 13

Total: 150

Streaming Attendance: 87

Cox Cable Attendance: 247

Pantry Guests Served: 797

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$25,543.00 (Regular) \$25,003.36 (Specials)

\$3,735.00 (Debt Reduction)

Wednesday Worship

12:15 PM

Our midweek Eucharist has resumed. You do not need to pre-register. Enter through the Farnam Street doors to the Sanctuary.

Home Devotion on Generosity for the 7 Weeks of Easter

During the Easter Season, the Live it Out resource from the Nebraska Synod and the ELCA Generosity Project, have provided a faith formation at home resource for you to use. It is provided to help in Growing God's Generous Generations. For seven weeks, a resource for you to work through on your own or with others in your home, will be provided. It centers our attention on God's generosity to us and our response to God's graciousness. Go to: <https://files.constantcontact.com/8c919081201/ec610d76-7bdc-4cde-b2d3-ee37674c8c32.pdf> for week s 6 & 7.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Shirley Bonneau's birthday given by Karen Bonneau; given by Lynn & John Schneiderman in honor of their 33rd Wedding anniversary.

Television Broadcast is sponsored given by Mary Olson in thanksgiving for God's many blessings

Youth Forum

In-Person & Zoom on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:00 AM

All 9th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Youth Room and on Zoom each week

- 1st Sunday: Bible Ponderings
- 2nd Sunday: High School Hang Out
- 3rd Sunday: Serving in the World
- 4th Sunday: Host Middle School Hangout
- 5th Sunday: Adventures (if on Zoom, we will carry you along with us)

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you need the Zoom Link info. We will continue to be masked and physically distanced for all meetings in person at the church.

Eavesdropping can nurture the Christian faith.

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

Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Mathias replaces Judas
Tuesday	1 John 5:9-13	Knowing about eternal life
Wednesday	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in prison
Thursday	1 Chronicles 16:8-18	David's psalm of praise
Friday	Colossians 4:2-6	Never give up praying
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way of happiness
Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit



“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” John 17:11 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Protecting God, you know the challenges in our daily lives; give us courage to love others and to trust you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we use this food to strengthen our bodies to serve others through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and keep you safe through Christ our Lord.

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

- Tell or think about a moment when you overheard a conversation not intended for you.
- Have you ever overheard someone pray? If so, what was that like for you?
- Jesus' disciples overheard him praying. How do you think that influenced their faith?

Read: John 17:6-19.

Jesus is praying for believers, present and future. The context of this prayer is helpful: the disciples overhear everything Jesus says. It is fascinating how often Christians can think back and recall moments when they overheard parents, grandparents, other family members, friends, or even strangers express their faith in ways that strengthened the eavesdropping individual. A grandparent praying or someone simply talking candidly about their faith in Christ in a way that was not trying to force on the eavesdropper a particular conviction can strengthen one's faith. Jesus' disciples overheard Jesus and recorded his words, his prayer, for the church. This recorded prayer acknowledged that Jesus is one with God the Father and that Jesus' disciples will be protected by God and cared for by one another. That is a candid message worthy of overhearing. When have you overheard someone say something that encouraged your faith in Christ? When might someone overhear you and be strengthened for a life of faith?

Pray: **Loving God, strengthen us in our faith and guide us to walk in love with brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.**

Psalms 1 makes it clear that who you gather with or who your friends are impacts your own journey in life. Being with people who are kind helps us to follow their example. Think about someone you know who is kind and in what ways they show kindness. How can you show kindness and compassion this week?

Jesus knew he was going to die soon so he prayed aloud for himself and his friends. One of the benefits of you praying aloud is that others get to hear or “overhear” your words. “Faith is caught more than it is taught” is a principle of faith formation. Make it a practice this week to pray aloud for your friends and family, even when you are alone—or think you are alone. Say prayers for what is special about your friends and ask God to protect and bless them.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**