

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
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2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
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www.kmlchurch.org

May 30, 2021

9:00 AM

HOLY TRINITY



When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our provider,

C help us we pray.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share

We question your ways when they differ from our ways.

We turn to our own understanding

rather than trusting you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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

ELW 413 vs 1-2, 4

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.

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

☐ 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.**

GLORIA



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
lord - ship is our bless - ing.
on us all have mer - cy.
lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Almighty Creator and ever-living God:

☑ **we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."*

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: *"Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"*

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: *"Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."* ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"* And I said, *"Here am I; send me!"*

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (read responsively)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “*Abba! Father!*” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

☒ 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 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “*Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.*” ³Jesus answered him, “*Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.*” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “*How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?*” ⁵Jesus answered, “*Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “*How can these things be?*” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “*Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?*”

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ELW 834 vs. 1-2, 4

**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious,
thy great name we praise!**

**2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.**

**4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, 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: **☒** 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)

Illness: Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Sydney Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Mary Hilkemann, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Chris Meyer, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, 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

☒ 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 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

“Be Still My Soul”

Sibelius/Olson
Jean Johnson, *piano*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

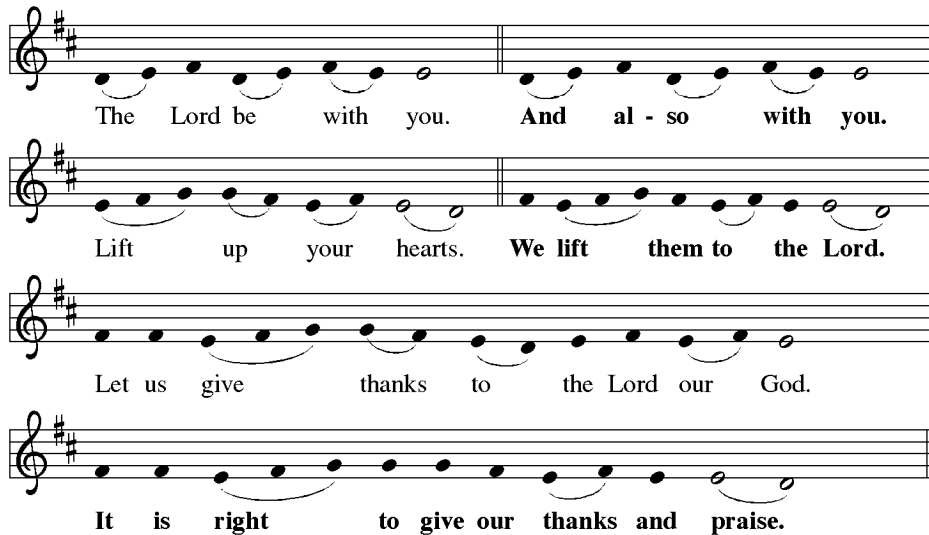
ELW 184

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

- ☐ Jesus, Bread of life,
☑ **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

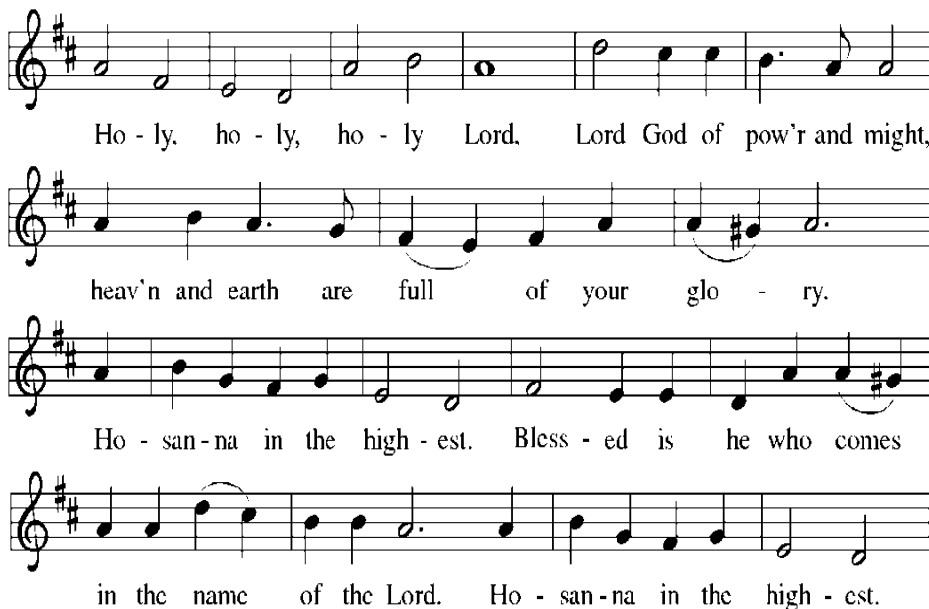
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 HOLY TRINITY

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

- ☐ Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
- ☑ **Come!**

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

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

ELW 408

- 1** Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.
- 2** Come, thou incarnate Word,
merciful, mighty Lord;
our prayer attend.
Come and thy people bless,
and give thy word success,
and let thy righteousness
on us descend.

- 3** Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour!
Thou who almighty art,
rule now in ev'ry heart,
never from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.
- 4** To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be
hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

- 1 **Creator Spirit, heav'nly dove,
descend upon us from above;
with graces manifold restore
your creatures as they were before.**
- 2 **To you, the Comforter, we cry;
to you, the gift of God most high,
true fount of life, the fire of love,
the soul's anointing from above.**
- 3 **In you, with graces sevenfold,
we God's almighty hand behold;
while you with tongues of fire proclaim
to all the world God's holy name.**
- 4 **Your light to ev'ry sense impart,
and shed your love in ev'ry heart;
your own unfailing might supply
to strengthen our infirmity.**
- 5 **Keep far from us our cruel foe,
and peace from your own hand bestow;
upheld by you, our strength and guide,
no evil can our steps betide.**
- 6 **Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and you, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
your praise may be our endless song.**

Text: Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856; tr. composite

COMMUNION BLESSING

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ Jesus, Bread of life,
☞ we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

☞ The blessing of Almighty God, Father † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word”

ELW 663 vs. 1-2, 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,
spread the reign of God the Lord.
Send forth our Creator's call,
heaven's gifts extend to all.</p> | <p>2 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
who, to save our human race
and to pay rebellion's price,
gave himself as sacrifice.</p> |
| <p>4 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gath'ring nations all
see your light and heed your call.</p> | |

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774-1841;
tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

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
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Omaha, NE 68131
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May 29 & 30, 2021

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.

Moving Forward!!

Effective for the weekend of June 5 and 6:

- No reservations for worship will be required.
- Face masks will not be required. We support an individual's choice to wear a mask if desired for personal protection for any reason. We are taking this position to encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated to wear a mask without any negative implications. Indeed, many people will feel safer attending services wearing a mask.

- Those who have not been vaccinated are requested to wear a mask. We will operate under the honor system, assuming that all who attend will abide by this stipulation.
- All pews will be available for seating (the ropes will be removed) but we are recommending that non-family members sit and remain three feet apart from each other.

JUNE and JULY: The pew cushions will be brought back. The Fellowship Hall will be open for coffee following the service. Each table in the Fellowship Hall will have 5 chairs around them. Those who are not Family or Friends are requested to sit at least three feet apart. The Task Force will meet in July to assess how things are progressing. See the June/July issue of the Good News for more information.

Today at Kountze

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of Edward & Marie Lamprecht-Bock given by Richard Bock

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 26

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 106

Wednesday Attendance: 11

Total: 143

Streaming Attendance: 80

Cox Cable Attendance: Not available this week

Pantry Guests Served: 844

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 29

Offering:

\$41,883.42 (Regular) \$1,112.33 (Specials)

\$597.00 (Debt Reduction)

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday June 13

10:15 AM

In-person Meeting in the Sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to interested members on the sale of deFreese Manor to the House of David Preservation Inc, a nonprofit corporation registered in the District of Columbia. The deFreese Manor Board plans to provide a summary of the sale conditions, followed by a Q & A period. The meeting will conclude with a vote of members in attendance at the meeting that Sunday.

God is holy.

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Luke 1:46-56	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Psalms 103:1-14	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Friday	John 15:12-15	Jesus calls us friends
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God



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And one [angelic figure known as a seraph] called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." Isaiah 6:3 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us courage and hope to live each day through Jesus Christ born in us through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Creator God, for the beauty of the earth and for this food, the fruit of the earth that we are able to eat this day, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

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

- When you hear the word, "holy," what do you think of?
- How is God more than a "good buddy" who gets me through tough times?
- How does God's holiness strengthen you in your daily life?

Read: Isaiah 6:1-8.

We live in an age when we can often envision God for us as a close and warm friend. That image is reinforced for us in John 15:15 when Jesus describes his followers as "friends." However, even in the John passage, there is an expectation of obedience, not just coziness. In Isaiah, the sense of reverence, awe—even deep fear—is present as Isaiah accepts his call as a prophet of God. In this dramatic moment in the temple with God and Isaiah present together, there are angels that have appearances that look like snakes and lions that can fly around with wings. It is a scene in which Isaiah responds with the words, "Woe is me" (v. 5). Trinity Sunday reminds us of God in three persons. A danger in such language is to assume that with such words we can really grasp the totality of who God is. Isaiah reminds us of the total otherness of God that is filled with power, might, judgment, and holiness. Jesus makes God accessible and personal. Trinity Sunday can remind us that our intimate relationship with God remains filled with awe and wonder. God is filled with glory, strength, majesty, and holy splendor (Psalm 29). Describe what this means to you and your faith.

Pray: Awesome God, you who are far beyond what I can imagine, I thank you for reaching out to me and to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit and saving grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm 29 gives many images of the power and awesomeness of God. As followers of such a mighty God, you are entrusted with divine powers of love to serve your neighbor near and far. How can you use God's divine power of love to serve others this week?

Begin your devotion times this week by saying the *Prayer for the Week* and marking yourselves with the sign of the cross. You may also wish to light three candles during devotions to represent the Trinity.

Say: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1; Mark 3:20-35**