

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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

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

November 21, 2021

9:00 & 11:00 AM

CHRIST the KING



Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

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

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. 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.

G Amen.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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!</p> |

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

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Almighty God,
- ☑ you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of 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

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 93 (read responsively)

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

**²Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

**⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸*“I am the Alpha and the Omega,”* says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

☐ 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “*Are you the King of the Jews?*” ³⁴Jesus answered, “*Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?*” ³⁵Pilate replied, “*I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?*” ³⁶Jesus answered, “*My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.*” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “*So you are a king?*” Jesus answered, “*You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.*”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name"

tune ELW 627

- 1 I know of a sleep in Jesus' name,
A rest from all toil and sorrow;
Earth folds in her arms my weary frame
And shelters it till the morrow.
My soul is at home with God in heav'n;
Her sorrows are past and over.**
- 2 I know of a peaceful eventide;
And when I am faint and weary,
At times with the journey sorely tried,
Through hours that are long and dreary,
Then often I yearn to lay me down
And sink into blissful slumber.**
- 3 I know of a morning bright and fair
When tidings of joy shall wake us,
When songs from on high shall fill the air
And God to His glory take us,
When Jesus shall bid us rise from sleep--
How joyous that hour of waking!**
- 4 O that is a morning dear to me,
And oft, o'er the mountains streaming,
In spirit its heav'nly light I see
As golden the peaks are beaming.
Then sing I for joy like birds at dawn
That carol in lofty lindens.**

THE 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 from 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 he 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.

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 Alma Bare

Illness: Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Gail Durban, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Mark Kidder, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, Bobbie Powell, John Rayno, Toby Rees, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Darlene White, Don Zinnecker

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – 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.

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!



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Proclaim the Glory of the Lord”

arr. Johnny Mann

Proclaim the glory of the Lord. Let every tongue confess He reigns,
lift up His name in praises forever, proclaim the glory of the Lord.
Make known His mighty deeds to all, take up the call, let every nation know.

He is our Messiah, our Savior and our King.
Let all our voices join as one and fill the earth with singing, glory to our God.
His greatness we applaud,
let every race on every shore proclaim the glory of the Lord.
(Proclaim the glory of the Lord.)

Proclaim the glory of the Lord.
Give honor to the Prince of Peace for if we cease the stones will start shouting,
proclaim the glory of the Lord.
With hands uplifted let us raise immortal praise to Him who reigns on high.

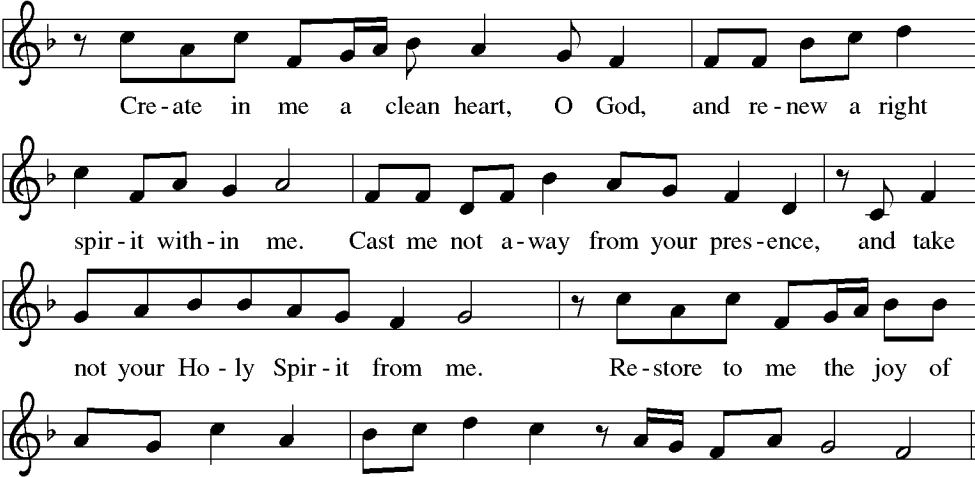
He is our Messiah, our Savior and our King.
Let all our voices join as one and fill the earth with singing, glory to our God.
His greatness we applaud,
let every race on every shore proclaim the glory of the Lord,
the glory of the Lord.

He is our Messiah, our Savior and our King.
Let all our voices join as one and fill the earth with singing, glory to our God.
His greatness we applaud,
let every race on every shore proclaim the glory of the Lord

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

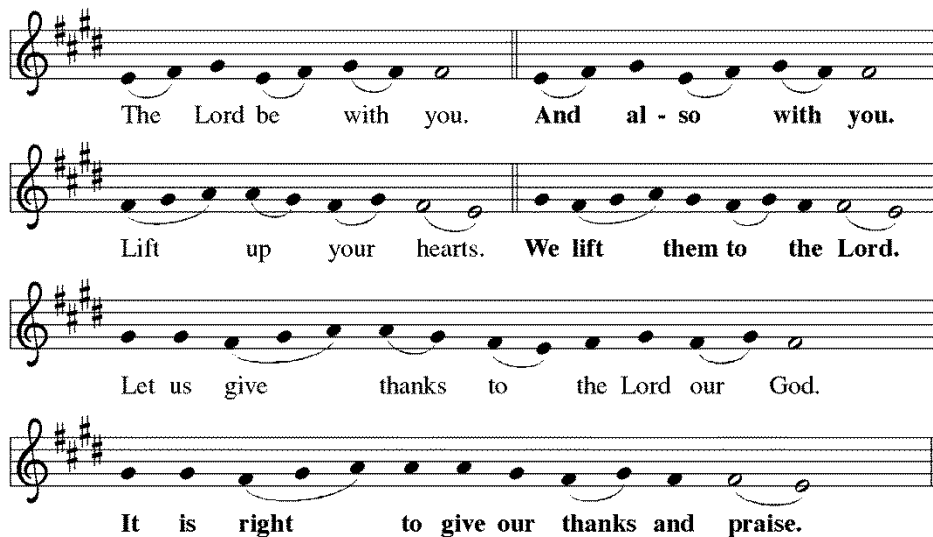


Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Holy God,
- ☑ the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among us. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

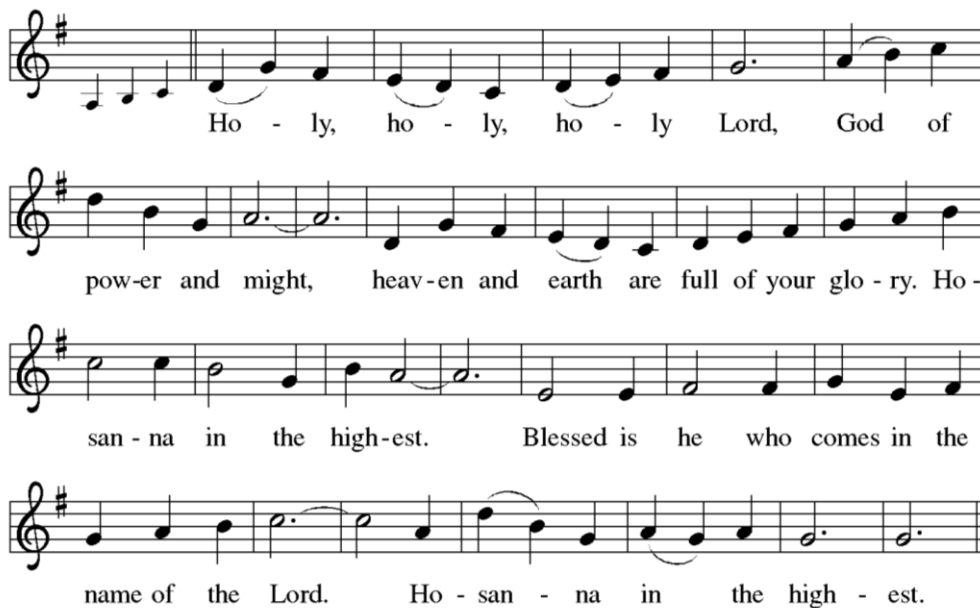
HOLY COMMUNION



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 CHRIST THE KING

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed 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 A feast of love is offered here

C **for you and for all the saints.**

THE 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 O God of love, O King of peace,
make wars throughout the world to cease;
our greed and sinful wrath restrain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.</p> | <p>3 Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord?
Where rest but on your faithful word?
None ever called on you in vain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.</p> |
| <p>2 Remember, Lord, your works of old,
the wonders that our elders told;
remember not our sins' deep stain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.</p> | <p>4 Where saints and angels dwell above
all hearts are knit in holy love;
oh, bind us in that heav'nly chain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.</p> |

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.</p> | <p>3 Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.</p> |
| <p>2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."</p> | <p>4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.</p> |

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- 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

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Blessed Jesus,
G at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share our gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CALL

- P** The Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal was called on June 18, 2017, to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church to be pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel he has comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, he and Marcia have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As he leaves this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.
- P** People of God, members of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Olaf from service as your Senior Pastor?
- C** **We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.**

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ
you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock.
You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them,
and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry
of Pastor Olaf and Marcia, among the people of God in this place.
You watch over our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning.
You surround your people in every time and place: keep us close in your love.
You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:
prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;
heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.
Help Pastor Olaf and Marica and their family and all of us to live with courage and
gladness in the future you give to us. As *they have* been a blessing to us, so now send
them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

BLESSING

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ Almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW 244

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722;
tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.
☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

† † †

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Kayla Slaight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 20 & 21, 2021

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a “City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry” and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Lynn Schneiderman's 59th Birthday; in celebration of the wedding of Jill Havekost and William Sauer

Television Broadcast is sponsored in appreciation and in honor of Pr. Olaf Roynesdal given by Shirley Bonneau & Karen Bonneau

Children's Choir

9:20 AM

Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will attend the first part of the 9:00 service with their families, come forward for the children's blessing, and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10

This Sunday—Celebration Breakfast

Today is Pr. Olaf's last Sunday with our congregation. Join us for a celebration to honor him during worship

Today at Kountze, continued on next page

Today at Kountze, *continued*

and the Adult Forum time. Breakfast will be served from 9:30 to 11:00 AM (November 21 only). A short program to acknowledge this milestone in his life, with time for conversation, will make up our time together between worship hours.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7th – 12th Graders are invited to join us!

This Sunday—Celebrate with Pr. Olaf

Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 21

5:00 PM

First Christian Church (6630 Dodge)

Kountze Memorial will once again be participating in the Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Prayer Service. This has been a nearly 30-year old event and it arose out of the congregations that helped give birth to the ministries of Together, Inc. (Kountze Memorial was a constitutive partner in both the foundation of Together, Inc and the Interfaith Prayer Service). Please join us.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 21 Sunday

Christ the King

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:10 AM Children's Choir (K-6th gr)

9:40 AM Breakfast to Celebrate Pr. Olaf

10:10 AM Sunday School (2 yr-6th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum—Farewell to Pr. Olaf

5:00 PM Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service (First Christian Church 6630 Dodge)

November 22 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

November 24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

November 25 Thursday

Thanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Meal @ St. Peters

November 26 Friday

OFFICE CLOSED

No Pantry

November 27 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

November 28 Sunday

Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall - No Sunday

School/Forums - join us

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

Ongoing and Coming Soon

Thanksgiving Dinner with St. Peter's

Thanksgiving Day, November 25

(11:00 AM to 1:30 PM)

Co-sponsored with and held at

St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28th Street)

Preparations are under way for our annual

Thanksgiving luncheon.

Volunteers are needed to:

a) set up the night before;

b) donate pies/desserts; and

c) serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal.

This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. Please contact Pr. Hall or the church office to volunteer. There will also be a sign up sheet in your bulletin beginning next week.

Ongoing and Coming Soon *continued*

Advent Wreath Prayer Volunteers

Advent begins on the weekend of November 27 & 28. During worship we will gather around the Advent Wreath with song and prayer. If you as a family, couple or single would like to share that prayer with the congregation at one of the weekend services, please go to the following sign-up. You can also call the church office. The prayer for that time, will be sent to you.

<https://form.jotform.com/212975981639170>

Advent Meal Volunteers Needed

We will need some volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. We can always use volunteers to help put out placemats, pour drinks, run the dishwasher, etc. so no culinary experience is necessary. If you love to cook, we would be most happy to have you help us with one or all four meals. Please consider taking an hour or two this Advent season to volunteer before, during, or after one of the meals.

Kountze Food Pantry

Our Pantry is participating in the Thrivent's Give Thanks and Give Back Food Shelf Challenge! Our job is to collect at least 500 individual containers of non-perishable foods from November 1-30, 2021. The food drive will be supplemented with a Generosity Multiplier Gift, courtesy of the Thrivent Member Network-Nebraska Region. This means the Kountze Food Pantry will not only benefit from the food, we will receive a matching gift of \$500! If you bring your contributions in a reusable canvas shopping bag, we can pass these on to our walking pantry guests. Thank you to all who brought hygiene products for our holiday gift bags. Your generosity, together with a very generous partnership with St. Michael Lutheran Church, will provide enough kits for 400 people!

Please note: Family Fare receipts must be complete in order to be counted. Partial receipts cannot be submitted.

Pantry Volunteers Needed:

Mondays: 7:30 - 9 AM; 9 - 11 AM; 11 AM - 1 PM

Fridays: 4 - 7 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

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

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Please join us for Advent meals in December, there will be four meals this year. Bring your family, friends, neighbors or call your church friends and meet at Kountze for lunch or dinner. Maybe you met someone new at coffee and cookie hour, give them a call and invite them. The tentative menu(s) subject to minor changes follows:

December 1

Pulled pork sandwiches
Baked beans
Coleslaw
Apple crisp

December 8

Meatloaf
Mashed potatoes (**not** out of a box)
Mixed steamed vegetables
Dinner roll w/butter
Desert T.B.A.

December 15

Peruvian baked chicken
Cilantro lime rice (plain rice available)
Vegetable
Roll with butter
Desert T.B.A.

December 22

Baked spaghetti w/ meat sauce or alfredo
Garden salad
Garlic bread
Desert T.B.A.

All meals are free will offering and served with choice of coffee, water, or tea.

Lunch: 11:00 AM - Noon

Supper: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 74

Sunday: 9:00: 172 **11:00:** 83

Wednesday: 12:15: 13 **Confirmation:** 12

Total: 354

Streaming: 93

Cox Cable: 201

Pantry Guests Served: 826 (includes 258 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$9,713.00 (Regular) \$4,239.03 (Specials)

\$1,412.00 (Debt Reduction)

Christ rules with a power unlike any other.

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

Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the king of truth
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	The time of judgment
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Thursday	1 Corinthians 4:14-21	Paul's concern for Corinthians
Friday	Hebrews 1:1-3	Jesus brings God's message
Saturday	Psalm 93	The majesty of God's rule
Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	Coming of the Son of Man



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*Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." **John 18:36 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you who are the author and creator of all that is, help us to see in you the way of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this meal remind us of the feast that you promise for all those you have freed to live as children of grace and truth. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty, bless you with peace. (Revelation 1:8)

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

- How can power be used for good? How can it be used for bad?
- If you had unlimited power, how would you use it to change the world?
- How do you think Christ's power and rule look different than the power seen in earthly governments?

Read: John 18:33-38a.

The good news of Jesus Christ is not about escapism as some kind of running away from the world that God created. We are reminded of this from the opening chapter of John: *"And the Word became flesh and lived among us"* (John 1:14a). The living Word reveals the power and glory of God that is filled with *"grace and truth"* (John 1:14b). In chapter 18 Jesus distinguishes between God's grace and truth that lead with love and mercy and the rule of bullies who demean and control others with violence. That is the Roman "peace" that occupied territories like Judea through governors like Pilate who served under Emperor Tiberius. No, Jesus' reign *"is not from this world"* (v. 36). As followers of Jesus, we engage with creation and our neighbor with a power of a different kind. It is a power that blesses, heals, and makes new through the cross of Christ. It is a power that through a death perpetrated at the hands of the powers from "this world" put Jesus to death and shows itself to be powerless through the humility and weakness of the Son of God. This is the one who came to serve and give us the everlasting power of divine love. Where do you see the good news of Christ's reign happening in the world today?

Pray: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your reign that is filled with divine power as it is filled with grace and truth through Jesus Christ, the one who came to set us free. Amen.

Service to others is filled with humility and love; it is people helping one another. The new church year begins next Sunday. As this church year ends, think of the ministries that have taken place over the past year and who has been responsible for them: worship, music, Sunday school, youth group, Bible studies and more. How can you show appreciation and thanks for those who have served over the past church year?

The season of Advent begins next Sunday. Begin to plan for your home observance of Advent. Think or talk about the traditions you have established in your home over the years. One common Advent tradition is having an Advent calendar. Another is the Advent wreath. If you have not had a tradition in the past, consider beginning one this year as part of your faith journey in your home.

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36