

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

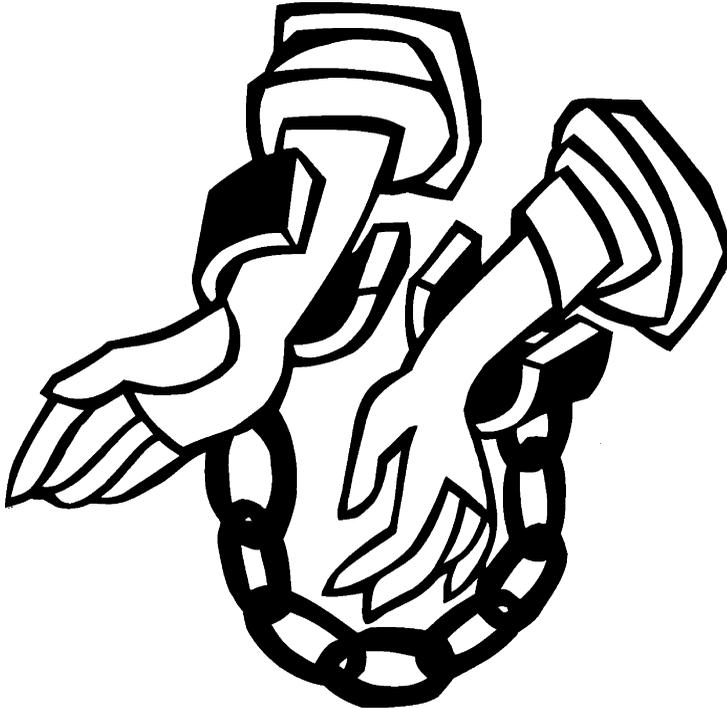
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

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

January 23, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY after EPIPHANY



God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.
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 have sinned against you and your beloved children.**
We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.
We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.
We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.
Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

- P** Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.
G Amen.

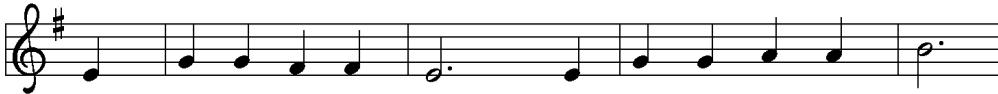
- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

GLORIA



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Blessed Lord God,

☑ you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “*Amen, Amen,*” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “*This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.*” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “*Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 (read responsively)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “*Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,*” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “*Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,*” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “*I have no need of you,*” nor again the head to the feet, “*I have no need of you.*” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the

inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,*

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, *“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children's sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Hall

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God's Word Is Our Great Heritage”

ELW 509

**God's word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872;
tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861-1925, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** God of grace, **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)

Illness: Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Karen Buchholz, Don Burton, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Bobbie Powell, Toby Rees, Doug Revord, Evelyn Sueper, Melissa Osentowski's grandmother, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: 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.**

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!

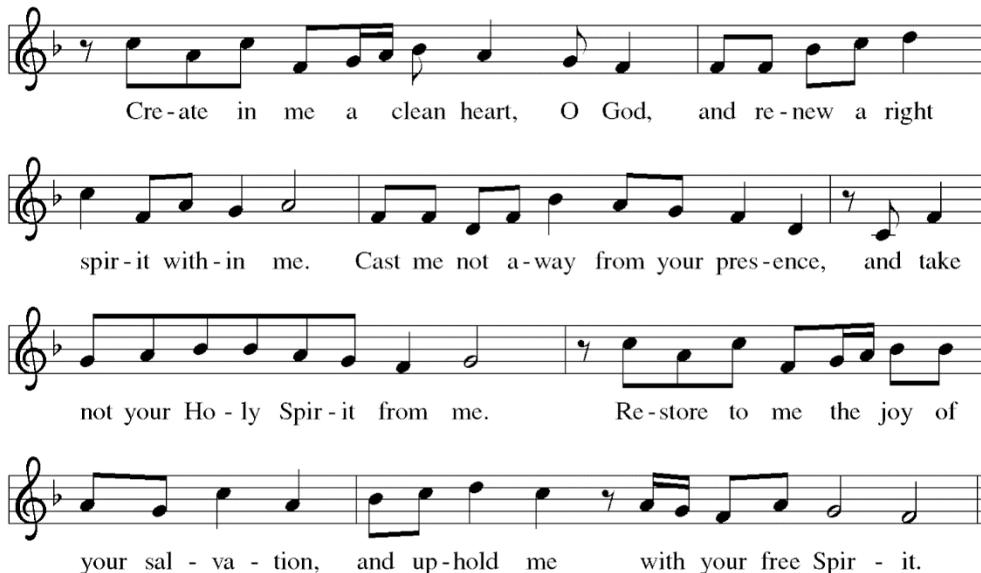


OFFERTORY ANTHEM

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

- P** Blessed are you, O God,
C **Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

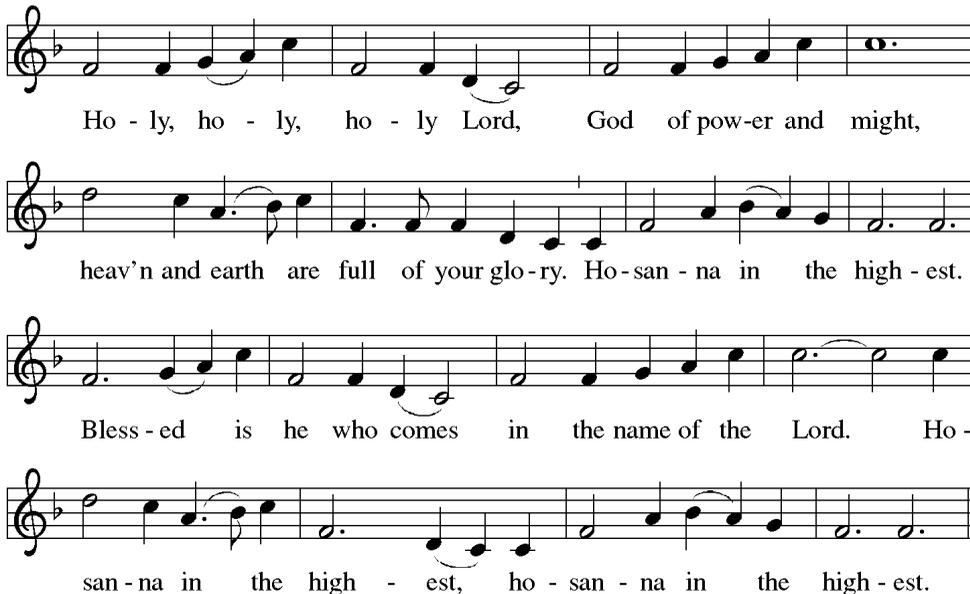
HOLY COMMUNION

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

PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

...be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to God's table. There is a place for you

C and enough for all.

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.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

ELW 311

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.
- 2 You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.
- 3 You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.**

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.</p> <p>2 With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.</p> | <p>3 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.</p> <p>4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.;
tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
Text © 1960 World Library Publications.
3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131.
All rights reserved.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** We give you thanks, gracious God,
G for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, † bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

- 1** Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom’s light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry’s hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow’r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people’s hour.
- 2** For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.
- 3** Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organist*



KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate 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 Slight	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**

January 22 & 23, 2022

*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 attendance card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by given by Don & Laura (Larsen) Strazdas in honor of their wedding (1/23); given by James Holzer & Tracey Saklar in memory of Lorri Esnough and Chris Saklar

Children's Choir Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will come forward for the Children's blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

Adult Forum Sunday, 10:10

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. Full Communion Agreements of the ELCA

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—Join the Adult Forum to learn about

Today at Kountze, *continued*

Refugee Resettlement in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or
shari@kmlchurch.org) if you have questions.

Refugee Resettlement Task Force Update

Thank you all for your generosity in welcoming our new neighbors! We are well on our way to gathering all the furniture and household items needed to set up an apartment for our sponsored family. **We still need a dining room table and 6 chairs, and one or two more sets of bunk beds.** We don't know who our family is yet, but we have committed to a family of 10, and we are almost ready! If you have signed up to donate items, please bring them to the

collection box in Fellowship Hall **by January 30** so we can inventory everything. If you have agreed to donate furniture, Jerry Fisher will be calling to arrange pick-up. **Volunteers are needed to help move furniture.** This is an excellent way to get young people involved in this important mission. There will also be opportunities for you to volunteer to help the family after their arrival. The Task Force will be presenting during forum time on January 23. If you have questions or donations before then, feel free to call Jonna Holland: 402-669-4575. It's a blessing to see this amazing response from our congregation!

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 23 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
12:15 PM New Member Class

January 24 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

January 25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
11:30 AM Endowment Board
7:00 PM Circle 3

January 26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation Supper
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

January 27 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

January 28 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry
6:00 PM Project Linus Event

January 29 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 30 Sunday

Epiphany 4
Receive New Members
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

Sunday School Talking Points

In today's Sunday school lesson, we learn the Parable of the Mustard Seed. The mustard seed is very tiny, yet can grow to 10 feet or more. Birds can perch in the branches and they also build nests there. The students will be presented a visual representation of the mustard tree, birds, and nests in the Godly Play presentation.

The children will see how our faith is compared to the tiny seed. When planted and cared for, it grows exponentially. Ask your children to repeat the lesson in their own words. See if they can name three ways to grow their faith. How can they plant a seed of faith in others?

'22 Stewardship Campaign

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Due to all the fall personnel changes, our Stewardship Campaign is now during our time After Epiphany. We look to this time and join the Refugee Resettlement Task Force in pondering the gifts that the Magi brought to the newborn King, Jesus.

It is the hope of the Congregational Council that you will consider your pledge of time, talents and treasures toward Kountze for the coming year. Please return your Pledge Cards before January 31.

New Member Class Continues

January 23

12:15 - 2:00 PM

New Members will be received on January 30.

Project Linus Event

Friday, January 28

6:00 PM

Happy New Year! The Christian Education Committee's resolution for 2022 is to do more service projects for our community. Each month we will have a different project for you to give of your time and talents. For January, we will be making blankets for Project Linus. This charity gives children with severe illnesses or trauma a security blanket. We will be meeting at the church Fellowship Hall on January 28 at 6:00. A chili and hot dog dinner will be provided. In addition to needing volunteers to make tie blankets, we need donations of prewashed fleece or cotton material. Please sign up for this event by calling the church office at 402-341-7761 so that we have enough food and materials on hand. Contact Kristin Boe at Kristin@kmlchurch.org with any questions.

Free at-home Covid-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

Simply Giving

Just a reminder - if you give your offering automatically through Simply Giving, please remember if

there are any changes to be made, you need to indicate this change to the office/make the changes yourself online, or the withdrawals will continue as they are currently set up. **If you would like more info. on Simply Giving**, you can pick up a form at the Welcome Desk or call the office.

Kountze Food Pantry

Kountze Food Pantry is once again collecting gloves, mittens, and hats! There is always a need in the winter months. Please leave your donations in the pantry box in Fellowship Hall or in the office. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by our guests!

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>

Camp Carol Joy Holling

Register by January 31!

\$50 off any full-week session & CJH Camp socks

The Early Bird \$50 discount applies to all full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The first 500 campers registered before January 31 will receive a pair of socks.

This summer, campers will explore the hopeful and saving story of God and God's people. They will experience the good news of God's generous and merciful power in their lives. Just as God was loving and faithful at the time of creation, in the life of Israel, and through Jesus Christ, so God continues to be in this world now. KMLC Camp Week is June 12 -17.

**Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 13, 2022
10:10 AM in the Fellowship Hall**

Annual Reports will be distributed at Worship the weekend of February 5 and 6.

On Sunday, February 6, Treasurer Tim Backora will lead a review of the budget during Adult Forum time.



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 15

Sunday: 9:00: 68 11:00: 41

Wednesday: 12:15: 7 Confirmation: 11

Total: 142

Streaming: 103

Cox Cable: 258

Pantry Guests Served: 0 (snow day & holiday)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 20

Offering:

\$6,507.00 (Regular)

\$1,143.53 (Specials)

\$979.50 (Debt Reduction)

Jesus sets us free.

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

Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth
Monday	Nehemiah 8:1-10	Ezra reads God's law to the people
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	One body, many parts
Wednesday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of deliverance
Thursday	Leviticus 25:1-17	The year of jubilee
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christian freedom
Saturday	Psalm 19	God's glory in creation and the law
Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected

taking
faith
home

© 2018 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved.
Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, for your message of freedom that is more desired than gold and sweeter than honey, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 19:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food that strengthens the body and your word that strengthens our souls, we thank you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of Christ Jesus bless you and release you from all your burdens.

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

- What is something that bothers you and makes you feel weighed down?
- How do you think Jesus can help you when you have a problem?

Read: Luke 4:14-21.

Short and sweet, this is Jesus' first sermon recorded in Luke: *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* What Luke wants us to know about the good news of Jesus is found in the words of Isaiah 61:1-2. The Spirit of God rests on Jesus. Jesus has good news for the poor, the captive, the blind, the oppressed. The *"year of the Lord's favor"* is the year of jubilee announced in Leviticus 25. It keeps society from unraveling into unlimited wealth for some and perpetual poverty for others. Every fifty years slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and lands lost to debts would be returned to ancestral owners. In recognition of the use and abuse of power and wealth, the year of jubilee allowed for fresh starts. That is what Jesus brings to us, a fresh start that releases us from poverty, from whatever bondage limits our life, whatever blinds us, whatever weighs us down. As we continue to read Luke, this opening sermon will clarify who Jesus is and what he is doing for all.

Discuss: How can Jesus give you a fresh start if something has been bothering you?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for freeing us to serve you with thanksgiving and our neighbor in love, through Christ Jesus who preaches good news for all. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how does knowing Jesus free and encourage you to serve others?

The *"year of the Lord's favor,"* mentioned in Luke 4:19 is a community experience of forgiving debts mentioned in Leviticus 25 and known as the Year of Jubilee. Create a *Jubilee Jar* this week and place things you and others worry about into it. At the end of the week, read what you wrote and then pray: **Dear God, I thank you for being with me and giving me and others a fresh start each day through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30