

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

April 24, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM



The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION!

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.
- P** We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.
You call us forth and send us out.
In lush and barren places, you are with us.
You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more.
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

1 Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

2 Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more.

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

3 Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each
other
as sisters and brothers united in love.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: David Haas


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.
C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE


"This is the Feast"

Refrain
Assisting minister




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.


All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** God of life,
- C** you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:14-29 (read responsively)

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵**Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷**The LORD is God and has given us light.**

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

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.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

☞ 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, preschoolers may either follow, with all the other children, 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 Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Borning Cry"

ELW 732

**1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."**

**2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme**

from dusk till rising sun."

**3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."**

**4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."**

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

THE APOSTLES' CREED 11:00 AM

**☐ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.**

**☑ 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.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 9:00 AM

Olivia Lauren Baker

Daughter of Ashley Baker

Baptized on November 21, 2015 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Becky McClanathan

Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5,6

“Trust the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Boe Di Lorenzo

Son of Jesse and Kara Di Lorenzo

Baptized on July 27, 2007 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Kelsey Ferry and Jeff Kassal

Bible Verse: Galatians 2:20

" It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.

And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Barrett Kelly Hinrichs

Son of Dr. Kelly and Susan Hinrichs

Baptized on August 12, 2007 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Heidi Steskal and Todd Evans

Bible Verse: Isaiah 41:10

“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Collin Wayne Johnston

Son of Robert A. and Michelle Johnston

Baptized on July 13, 2008 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Janet Johnston and Dave Wojtkiewicz

Bible Verse: Psalm 25:5

" Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation: for you I wait all day long.”

Drew Braden Rasmussen

Son of Brent E. and Kim M. Rasmussen

Baptized on June 28, 2008 at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

Baptismal Sponsors: Diane D. Rasmussen & Kevin Kuta

Bible Verse: Galatians 5:22, 23

“By contrast, the fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is not law against such things.”

P Merciful God,

C **we thank you for these brothers and sisters, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response from confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

P **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

(sit)

P Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Response from confirmand: Amen.

(stand)

P Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

C **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Merciful God,
 C receive our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Thanksgiving: for the affirmation of baptism of Olivia Baker, Boe Di Lorenzo, Barrett Hinrichs, Collin Johnston, Drew Rasmussen

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Norma Pafford

Illness: Kay Andersen, Richard Bock, Judy Boelts, Don Burton, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Lara McCormick, 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

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006828. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-705181. New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. All Creations Sings ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, an imprint of 1517 Media. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26828. CCLI License #1511530.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. 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 online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Joyful, Joyful, Sing Praise”

by Jay Althouse

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Living God,
- ☑ you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The music consists of a single melodic line with various note values and rests.

PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The music consists of a single melodic line with various note values and rests.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- Ⓟ Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
... With this bread and cup . . . we proclaim the mystery of faith
- ☪ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- Ⓟ O God of resurrection and new life . . .
Grace our table with your presence.
- ☪ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- Ⓟ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread . . .
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- ☪ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- Ⓟ With your holy ones . . . we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- ☪ **Amen.**

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.**

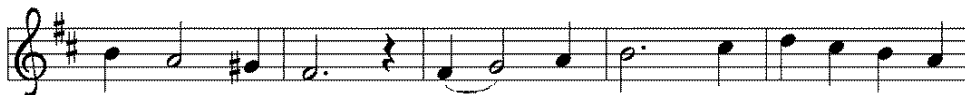
AGNUS DEI



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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty.

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

(sit)

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 who 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. The form of distribution is intinction, you will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

- 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

"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

Refrain

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness. Repeat**

- 1 Christ the Lord to us said:
I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread,
give to all who thirst and hunger.
*Refrain***
- 2 Now he sends us all out,
strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt.
Tell to all the joyful gospel. *Refrain***

Text: South African, tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
English text © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

Refrain

**3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**
Refrain

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:**
Refrain

**5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**
Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.,
7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We give you thanks, generous God,

C for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

☐ God, the author of life, Christ, the living cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✚ bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- ☐ Go in peace. Tell what God has done.
☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚

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 Slaughter	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

April 23 & 24 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. Our form of distribution is Intinction.

Sharing of the Peace

As we return to worship practices, we encourage you to begin again sharing the peace in a way that is comfortable for you. Please be mindful that your way might not be for everyone. Handshakes, elbow or fist bump, a bow, a nod, a wave all work. Take this time to connect with others in a way that allows for the Peace of Christ to flow through and amongst us.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a 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 Keith Jansen in honor of those affirming their baptism this day.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 24

9:00 AM.

Those Affirming their Baptismal Faith are :

Olivia Baker
Boe Di Lorenzo
Barrett Hinrichs
Collin Johnston
Drew Rasmussen

All are welcome to the Fellowship Hall following worship for a cake reception. Cards and notes of encouragement can be put in marked bags for the Confirmands by the cake table. Blessings to each one who has affirmed their baptismal faith this day and all who will continue to support them in their faith.

Children's Choir

Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen will lead the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will

Today at Kountze, *continued*

come forward for the Children's Blessing and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.

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).

Sunday School Talking Points

What happens after Easter? Things might seem anti climatic now that Easter is over. However, our joyous work is only beginning! In today's lesson, we learn about how to trust Jesus and joyfully spread his word.

Ask your child to retell the lesson for today. What was the most interesting aspect to them?

What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit? Do they have the Holy Spirit? What does it look like?

How do you trust in Jesus? Where do you see Jesus in your daily life?

Youth Forum

Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

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

This Sunday—Confirmation Reception

Adult Forum

Sunday, 10:10

This Sunday—Confirmation Reception

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall

This Week at Kountze Memorial

April 24 Sunday

Easter 2

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Confirmation

9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal

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

10:10 AM Confirmation Celebration

10:10 AM deFreeze Manor Board Meeting

April 25 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

11:30 AM Endowment Board

April 26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Circle 3

April 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

April 28 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

April 29 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

April 30 Saturday

Homebound Communion

10:30 AM Norma Pafford's Funeral

5:00 PM Worship

May 1 Sunday

Easter 3

Homebound Communion

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal

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

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

10:10 AM Adult Forum

Thank You for all the ways you serve!

The Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Staff are so grateful to each one who shared their gifts of talents and time during the Holy Week and Day of Resurrection. We could have not accomplished what we were able to do without you. It is in joyful appreciation that we uplift your service and give thanks that we join together in the mission of Christ in this place. You have made our work lighter and more meaningful as you give so graciously of yourselves for the sake of the gospel. Blessed Easter joy to each one.

May is Blindness Prevention Month

May is Blindness Prevention Month. During May we will be again be collecting used eyeglasses for a community project. Thank you in advance for your participation in this outreach event. Please place the glasses in the drop box by the back office door in May. Thank you in advance for your support.

Celebrating our Graduates

Sunday, May 15

9:00 AM Worship Service

As in years past, the high school seniors will be blessed and presented with a quilt from the KMLC sewing

group. All graduates who wish to be included in the video can submit 5 photos, to Pastor Shari by Monday, May 2 along with your written information for the bulletin. Please contact Pastor Shari with any questions. We want to celebrate all graduates at this time. If you are graduating this spring or have graduated from college or any educational program in the last 6 months, let us know. Submit the following information to shari@kmlchurch.org: Name, Parents, Place attended, Degree, and Future Plans by Monday, May 9. Thanks for helping us to compile this information. Congratulations to all!

Baptism Seminar

Sunday, May 15

10:10 AM

If you are interested in having your child baptized and have not been through a Baptism Seminar before, be sure to join us. We will meet in the Nave. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce parents to the theology of baptism, walk through the baptismal liturgy, discuss scheduling for the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have. Please call the church office to register at 402-341-7761.

Vacation Bible School

June 13 - 17

5:30 - 8:00 PM - Dinner at 5:30 PM

Save the date! Kountze will be partnering with Morning Star Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School! Dinner will be served at the start, with learning through activities to follow. VBS will be held at Morning Start church (331 S. 85th St.). We will be looking for volunteers to help serve food, teach, and assist. If you are interested, please contact Kristin Boe at kristin@kmlchurch.org.

Ordination of Adam Klinker

Held at Kountze Memorial

Tuesday, June 14

Camp Carol Joy Holling

You can still register for Camp this summer. Go to <https://www.caroljoyholling.org>. Kountze camp week will take place June 19 – 24, 2022. Get to know your friends from Kountze while having a great time at bible camp. A pastor might even stop by to see what fun activities you are participating in during the week. We hope you will join in this great opportunity! (If that week will not work, we encourage you to attend anytime you are free this summer. There are First-Time Camper Discounts of \$100.00)

New Orleans is the Place for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!

KMLC youth in 6th through 10th grade, get jazzed to participate in the New Orleans 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, MYLE and the tAble! The Big Easy is filled with rich history, friendly locals, amazing food and great music. Mark your calendars for July 16-20, 2024, to join in this transformational faith formation event. MYLE and the tAble will take place immediately before on July 13-16.

Kountze Food Pantry

Thank-you to Methodist Health Systems and the Women of the ELCA for their large donations of food and personal care items! We have exciting news at the Kountze Food Pantry! Beginning May 16 we will be returning to a guest choice, indoor service! This means a lot less heavy lifting and more fun for the volunteers. If you choose to join us, you will be expected to stand or sit at a station and offer our guests a choice in your category. There are 12 different stations at each shift. The first shift is from 10-11 and the second shift is from 11-1. In addition we will need greeters and carry out volunteers. You are welcome to sign up for both shifts. We all look forward to returning to normal!

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 using the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday, Easter Vigil: 31

Sunday: 7:30: 31 9:00: 292 11:00: 147

Wednesday: 12:15: 11

Total: 480

Streaming: Not available at time of printing

Cox Cable: Not available at time of printing

Pantry Guests Served: Closed

Medical Clinic Guests Served: Closed

Offering:

\$10,682.74 (Regular) \$6,911.16 (Specials)

\$502.00 (Debt Reduction)

These numbers weren't available last Sunday:

Holy Week:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 21

Maundy Thursday: 12:15 24 6:30 82

Good Friday: 1:00—3:00 99 6:30 53

Offering:

\$16,034.00 (Regular) \$5,477.35 (Specials)

\$2,712.00 (Debt Reduction)

Thomas' experience is like our own.

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds
Monday	Acts 5:27-32	The conviction of the apostles
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4-8	Christ sends a message to John
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:4-8	A living hope
Thursday	Hebrews 11:1-22	Faith in what we do not see
Friday	Hebrews 11:23-40	The faith of the Israelite leaders
Saturday	Psalms 150	Praise the Lord
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples



© 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.

*Jesus said to him [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." **John 20:29 (NRSV)***

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we long to see your presence in our world. Come, Holy Spirit, that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our God. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a sign of your love for us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you the faith to see and experience the love of Christ Jesus.

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

- ☑ What is something you long to see?
- ☑ How do you experience Jesus in the world without seeing his physical presence?

Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas' story is a continuation of the story of Mary Magdalene in the garden with Jesus (John 20:1-18). She experiences grief, confusion, then recognition and a changed identity as a follower of her teacher, her Lord. The news of Jesus' resurrection seems too good to be true. Thomas experiences deep disappointment and displeasure. He has missed what the other disciples experienced a week ago and he wants that experience, too. A week later, he has his own personal encounter with the resurrected Lord and becomes the first to make the confession of faith, "*My Lord and my God.*" Jesus recognizes the importance of this personal encounter with Thomas and for all future generations of disciples. We will "see" Jesus in the body of Christ through the word announced and through water, bread, and wine. This lets the "*Word become flesh*" (John 1:14) and dwell among us today.

Discuss: How does the resurrected Lord become evident—seen—in your life?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, we thank you for coming to Thomas and the other disciples and for coming to us in suffering and in glory through your living church. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help others see Jesus through your actions and words?

If you planted an Easter Garden, enjoy the growing flowers and other plants and also notice other new growth outside during this season. As you observe the plants and marvel at God's creation, recall the saving work of Christ to redeem all that God has created. Finish by saying: **Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19