

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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May 15, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER



*Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth.*

*The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us.*

*Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.*



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### THE EASTER ACCLAMATION!

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

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*"Pass It On"*

Kurt Kaiser

## 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 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain**

*Refrain*

**God has done marvelous things.  
I too sing praises with a new song!**

**4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain**

**5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain**

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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

**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”



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



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** O Lord God,
- C** you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through 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 11:1-18

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

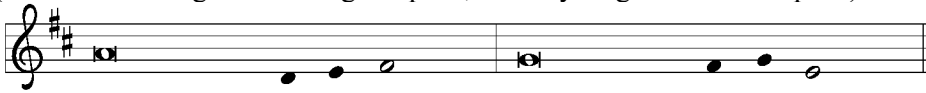
**N**ow the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 148

(Choir/cantor sings lines in regular print, All may sing lines in **bold print**)



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God<sup>1</sup> in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav-<sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
and you waters a-<sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they<sup>1</sup> were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev-<sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not<sup>1</sup> pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
you sea monsters<sup>1</sup> and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail,<sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do-<sup>1</sup> ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains<sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
fruit trees<sup>1</sup> and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts<sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
creeping things and<sup>1</sup> flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth<sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers<sup>1</sup> of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young<sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
old and<sup>1</sup> young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over<sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all<sup>1</sup> faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

**I** saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.



## HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

**W**hen he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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

*"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"*

**ELW 452 vs, 1, 3, 4**

- |                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b> Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,<br/>and Christ shall give you light;<br/>so learn his love, its length and breadth,<br/>its fullness, depth, and height.</p> | <p><b>3</b> There is one body and one hope,<br/>one Spirit and one call,<br/>one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,<br/>one God who made us all.</p> |
| <p><b>4</b> Then walk in love as Christ has loved,<br/>who died that he might save;<br/>with kind and gentle hearts forgive<br/>as God in Christ forgave.</p>               |                                                                                                                                                     |

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984  
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## CELEBRATION OF 2022 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- Ⓐ Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their faith journey. As the names of our 2022 graduates are read, we ask that they, who are present, along with their parents and families, please come forward:

Torin Edwards  
Tyler Johnston  
Eli Kopp  
Ryan Lampman

Hadley Rief  
Henry Rief  
Dessire Waller  
Jacob Weiland

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

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

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

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

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

Ⓞ **We will with God's help and guidance.**

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

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

## **PRAYER (graduates kneel)**

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

**C** **Amen**

## **PRESENTATION OF QUILTS**

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

**Parents wrap the quilts around their children's shoulders**

## **PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray: We come this day before you, O God,

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

## **PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES**

*(graduates stand and face the congregation)*

**P** I present to the congregation, our 2022 high school graduates and their families.

**P** Depart in Christ's peace.

## **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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** God, in your mercy,  
**G** 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 Kimberly Kae Samuels, sister of Terri Partridge

**Illness:** Richard Bock, Don Burton, Dorothy Cross, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Philip Frye, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, Stephanie Stephens, daughter of Vinn Stephens, 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.  
**G** And also with you.

# 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 or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

arr. Teresa Jennings

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

*Refrain*

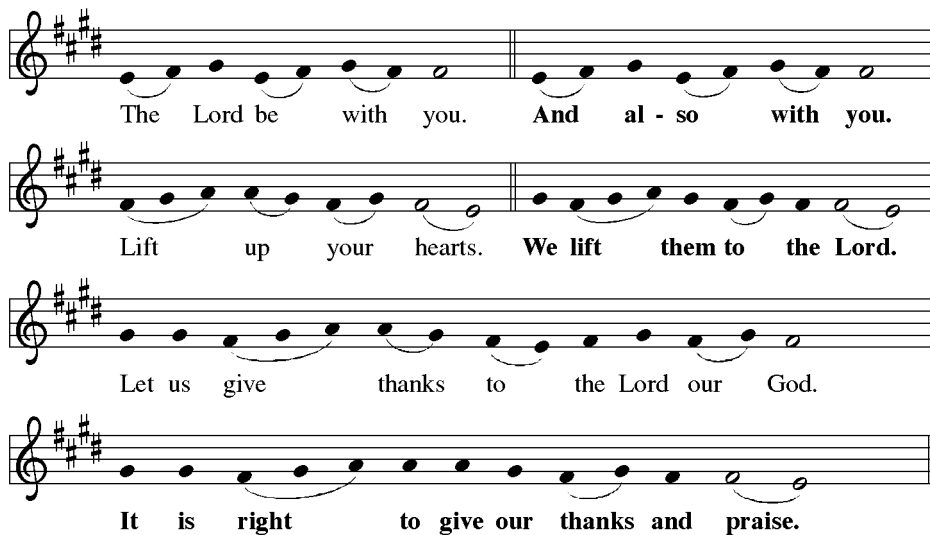
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when  
*Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Living God,

**C** 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 musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are simple, with some slurs and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

## 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.

## 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.

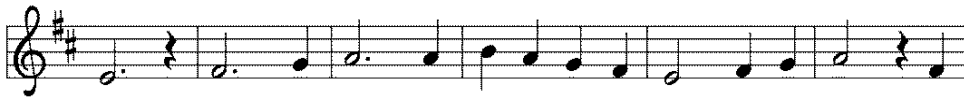
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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, come.

☑ **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 then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

ELW 359

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

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.;  
tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.  
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- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1 I come with joy, a child of God,<br/>forgiven, loved, and free,<br/>the life of Jesus to recall<br/>in love laid down for me,<br/>in love laid down for me.</b></p> <p><b>2 I come with Christians far and near<br/>to find, as all are fed,<br/>the new community of love<br/>in Christ's communion bread,<br/>in Christ's communion bread.</b></p> | <p><b>3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,<br/>each proud division ends.<br/>The love that made us, makes us one,<br/>and strangers now are friends,<br/>and strangers now are friends.</b></p> <p><b>4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,<br/>unseen, but ever near,<br/>is in such friendship better known,<br/>alive among us here,<br/>alive among us here.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5 Together met, together bound<br/>by all that God has done,<br/>we'll go with joy, to give the world<br/>the love that makes us one,<br/>the love that makes us one.</b></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company,  
Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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*(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

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# 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

*“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”*

ELW 547

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God  
from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service  
in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action  
for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom  
and answer your call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday  
life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children,  
the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in  
this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ  
and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.  
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## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 14 & 15, 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 in honor of our graduates; given by John & Lynn Schneiderman in celebration of their 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

### **Children's Choir** **Ages K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade** **8:30 AM**

Barb Carlsen will lead 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.

### **Celebrating our Graduates** **Sunday, May 15**

#### **9:00 AM Worship Service**

We celebrate with the following high school graduates this year: Torin Edwards, Tyler Johnston, Eli Kopp, Ryan Lampman, Hadley Rief, Henry Rief, Dessire Waller, Jacob Weiland. A few of these graduates are also getting their Associate Degrees from Community Colleges as well. Congrats to all! Join us for a cake reception between services on Sunday. If you brought cards or notes of congratulations, there will be gift bags to place them in on the welcome desk during this time.

### **Sunday School** **Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM**

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

## Today at Kountze, *continued*

### Sunday School Talking Points

Today we will review how Jesus returned to his disciples several times after dying on the cross. While Jesus did this to show he was the Messiah, it also gave his followers peace and the encouragement to live their lives as God intended. We will study the Ascension of Jesus and how the end of Jesus' earthly ministry is the beginning of our ministry. Ask your children what Ascension means. What activity did we do to explore the idea of Ascension? Review with your children the times Jesus appeared to his followers. What does our earthly ministry look like? What can you do this week to spread the word of God?

### Youth Forum

#### Sundays, 10:10 - 10:50 AM

All 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join us!

**This Sunday**—Graduate Reception in the Fellowship Hall

### Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Sunday**—Graduate Reception in the Fellowship Hall

### 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 of the baptism, and address any questions the parents might have.

### Global Mission

Global Mission is collecting good used or new bath towels and shower curtains with rings for refugees in Omaha. There is a great need for these items according to Nancy Meyer when she visited Restoring Dignity, an organization that helps collect for refugees. A box will be in the fellowship hall the weekends of May 14-15 & 21-22. Thank you for thinking of our local refugees.

### 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.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### May 15 Sunday

Easter 5  
Good News Deadline  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
8:30 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
10:10 AM Baptism Seminar  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:10 AM Congregational Life Committee

### May 16 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry  
10:30 AM Kimberly Samuels Funeral  
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

### May 17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
6:00 PM Congregation Council

### May 18 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Synod Delegate Meeting

### May 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Christian Education Committee  
7:00 PM Circle 5

### May 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### May 21 Saturday

8:00 AM May Service Project for the Youth (CJH Clean-up Day)  
5:00 PM Worship

### May 22 Sunday

Easter 6  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship  
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
9:15 AM Children's Choir  
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum

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### Men's Lunch

#### Thursday, May 19

11:30 AM

Cost: \$10

The men's lunch meets the third Thursday of every month @ 11:30 AM. We enjoy lunch, usually a short presentation, and time for fellowship. We try to keep the lunch and presentation short so that even if you're working, you can still join us. Our May lunch will have a

brief taped interview of Pastor Wick talking about the 135<sup>th</sup> Kountze anniversary. Please call the church office or email your reservation to jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, May 17.

**May Service Project for the Youth of Kountze**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2022 (Please register by May 12)**  
**8:00 AM - 1:30 PM - Breakfast & Lunch Included**  
**Carol Joy Holling Camp**

**Follow Signs to Check-in Location**

Join us at Carol Joy Holling Camp's Annual Work Day! We need your help to get our site ready for the more than 1,500 campers that will be arriving during the summer. Bring friends and family for a day of work in God's creation! Individuals and groups are welcome, and all skill levels are needed. Please bring clothes that can get dirty, close-toed shoes and gloves. Kids are welcome with parent supervision. **Questions?** Contact Gera at [GSchultz@NLOM.org](mailto:GSchultz@NLOM.org) or 402-944-2544.

**Ascension Day Festive Eucharist**  
**with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**  
**held at Kountze Memorial**

**Thursday, May 26**

**6:30 PM**



KMLC will host the joint Eucharist with Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on the Feast of the Ascension. ELCA Nebraska Synod Bishop Brian Maas will preach and preside. All are welcome!

**New Member Class**

**June 5**

**12:15 - 2:00 PM**

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or think you would like to join our congregation, please consider attending our next New Member class. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please call the church office to register and let us know if you need childcare. If you have questions, please talk to one of our Pastors. New members will be received on Sunday, June 26.

**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 Star Church (331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org).

**Ordination of Adam Klinker**

**Held at Kountze Memorial**

**Tuesday, June 14**

**6:00 PM**

More information to follow.

**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)

**Congregational Life Volunteers Needed**

If you enjoy cooking and serving meals, the Congregational Life Committee would like to share the good times in the kitchen with you! If you would like to serve in this way, please contact the church office or Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org)).

**Kountze Food Pantry**

This is it! Your Pantry is moving back inside this month on May 16! We are very excited, but we need your help. We are very short handed and desperately in need of volunteers. We have a job for every ability level. 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: 10—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:** 28

**Sunday: 9:00:** 144 **11:00:** 70

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 11 **deFreese Manor:** 5

**Total:** 258

**Streaming:** 59

**Cox Cable:** 167

**Pantry Guests Served:** 802 (inc. 423 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 14

**Offering:**

\$14,788.00 (Regular)                      \$1,353.05 (Specials)

\$1,672.50 (Debt Reduction)



*God's ways are not our ways.*

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

Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another
Monday	Acts 11:1-18	Peter reports to the church
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	James 1:2-16	Trials and temptations
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-13	God's words are powerful
Friday	Proverbs 3:5-8	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 148	Praise for God's universal glory
Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the counselor



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*When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." Acts 11:18 (NRSV)*

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Loving God, help us to love one another and to seek to understand before we seek to be understood for the sake of Jesus Christ and the reign of God he brings. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Praise God for this gift of food and all that we have been given. Praise God! Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with a heart filled with mercy.

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

- When you feel confused and need guidance, what do you do?
- The Bible makes it clear that God's ways are not our ways. What does this mean to you?

*Read:* Acts 11:1-18.

Peter was telling a church of Jewish Christians in Jerusalem about what took place that led him to accept Gentiles (non-Jews) into the church. The Jerusalem church was critical of Peter. He had to give a clear, step-by-step description of what he had experienced. To discern or understand how accepting Gentiles into the church as the will of God was not easy. Peter himself had received the message three times. It was hard for Peter to grasp what had happened and it was hard for both Peter and the early church to discern the ways of God. It is still difficult for us today to understand God's ways as being fundamentally different than our ways. God's ways have never been easy for followers of Jesus. Reading the Bible, prayer, meditation, and faith-filled conversations with others in the church guide us as we seek to understand the ways of God and the path that God wants for us as followers of Jesus.

*Discuss:* What helps you be open to God's ways to guide your life?

*Pray:* **God of love and faithfulness, help us to see as you see, to judge as you judge, and to show mercy as you show mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show someone God's love?

Psalms 148 calls on us and all of creation to give praise to God. *"Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created"* (v. 5). Go for a walk and look around at God's beautiful creation. When you return draw a picture of your favorite scene or make a list of God's creations you saw while on the walk. Finish by praying: **Dear God, I praise you for \_\_\_\_\_. I thank you for \_\_\_\_\_. In Jesus name, Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 11:1-18; Psalms 148  
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35