

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
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September 4, 2022

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C** Amen.

**P** Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C** we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

**We have harmed your good creation.**

**We have failed to do justice, love kindness  
and walk humbly with you.**

**Turn us in a new direction.**

**Show us the path that leads to life.**

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

**P** Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points us to Christ,  
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
- 2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,  
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;  
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—  
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:  
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,  
and we through him are given the final victory.
- 3 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996  
Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin.  
Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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## 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.

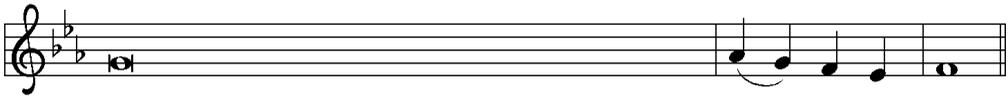
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



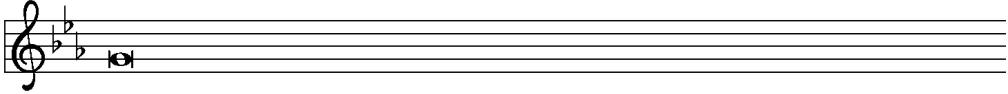
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



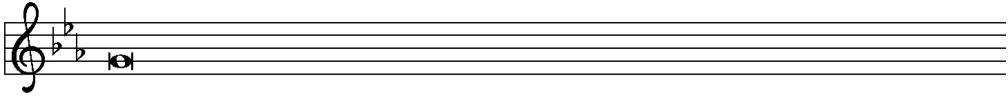
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Direct us, O Lord God,

**C** in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

**S**ee I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 1

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



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,**

**and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## **SECOND READING**

## **Philemon 1-21**

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

**P**aul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

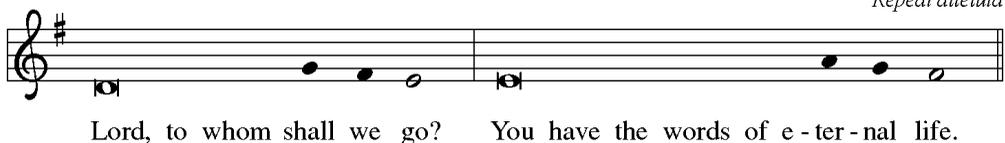
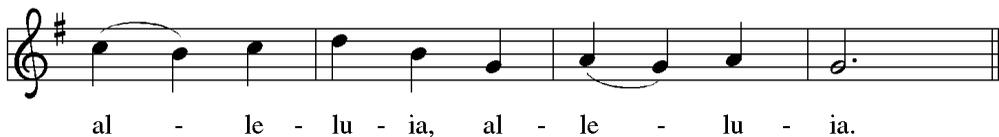
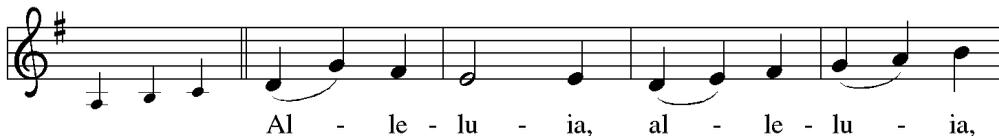
<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

**℣** The word of the Lord.

**☩** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Repeat alleluia*

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

**N**ow large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** 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, they may either return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon, or follow Ms. Boe upstairs for an activity in the Sunday School room.*

## **SERMON**

*Pastor Duminy*

(stand)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”* **ELW 808 vs. 1, 3-4**

- 1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:  
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**
  
- 3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.  
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.**
  
- 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;  
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.  
And with all of the family you saved by your love,  
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.**

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931  
Text © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

(sit)

## **BLESSING FOR THE BEGINNING OF INTERNSHIP**

- ☐ O God, who through the Holy Spirit illumines the mind and sanctifies the lives of those who are called to rostered leadership in your church: look with favor upon the seminaries of our church in their efforts to instruct and form those who are to serve in the Sacred Ministry of the Gospel. Bless your people in this congregation who by word and example aid your servant, Vicar Gretchen, in learning to grow into a pastoral identity, develop a pastoral imagination, and grow in the competencies of ministry. Grant as we diligently work together, submitting ourselves in obedience to your Son and guided by your Spirit, that our lives may be enriched and our ministries fulfilled with joy -- to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

- Ⓛ The Apostle Paul writes, "People have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through different people in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves God's purpose through them all." (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

It is the task of the student under the direction of the supervising pastor and in mutuality with the congregation to learn by doing and become by being.

I ask you, Vicar Gretchen, are you willing to embrace this time of teaching and learning in your ministry here, and will you seek God's guidance to be challenged and grow for the sake of the Gospel and to the Glory of God? If so, answer, "I am ready. May God help me, empower me, and form me in this ministry."

*Student:* I am ready. May God help me, empower me, and form me in this ministry.

*(stand)*

- Ⓛ It is our opportunity as members of this congregation to serve as a teaching and learning congregation for a student in formation for Rostered Ministry in the ELCA. It is our opportunity to serve as place of learning and growth for Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp; to welcome her as a worker within our congregational ministry, to invite and welcome her into our homes, and in every way strengthen and encourage her in this time of learning, formation, and service.

- Ⓛ Now I ask, will you receive this servant of God as a student in formation and laborer in the Gospel of Christ? Will you uphold and support Vicar Gretchen in every way? If so, answer, "Yes, with God's help."

**Ⓢ Yes, with God's help.**

- Ⓛ Almighty God, by whose call we are at work, bless and empower us in our ministry that what we do together will be pleasing in your sight and bring honor to your holy name.

Let us pray: Almighty God, we ask you to bless Vicar Gretchen and this congregation. Offer your continual help to those who labor in it in your love and service. Guide the formation of Vicar Gretchen for the ministry of the Gospel. Grant us your spirit, power and wisdom, steadfastness of faith, and hope for all good things; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Ⓢ Amen.**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

- P** God has made us his 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 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:** Patty Baker, Richard Bock, Jan Bowder, Gene Buchholz, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Philip Frye, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville Knapp, Chris Meyer, Jane Meyer, Lara McCormick, Noelle Phelps, John Ray, Stephanie Stephens, Traci Stephens, Debra Woosley, Dorothy Yeshnowski

**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; Katie Larson, Columbia; Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Wittenburg Center, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarians*— Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** 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

“How Great Thou Art”

arr. Craig Courtney  
Paul Rath, *soloist*

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

“We Are an Offering”

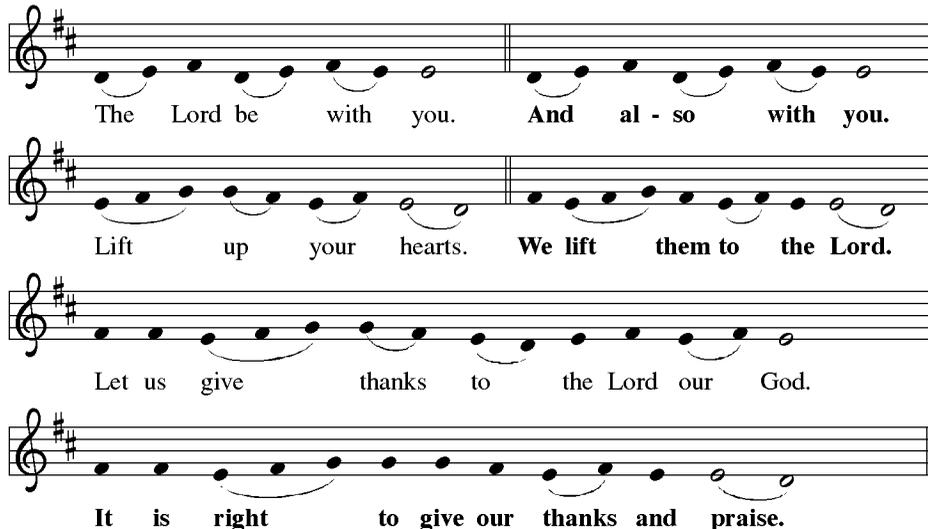
ELW 692

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Gracious God,  
☑ **in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.**

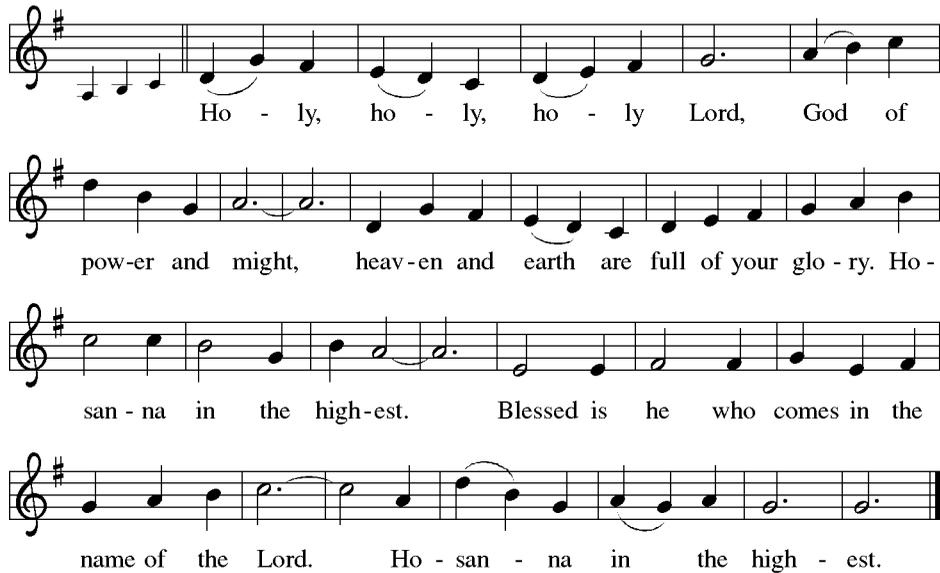
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

## PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS IN PENTECOST

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

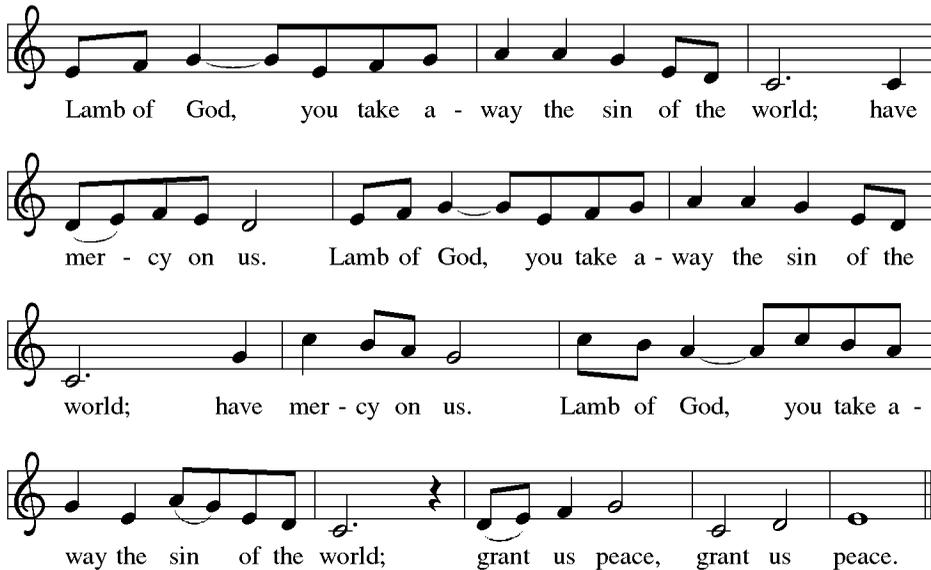
☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **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

**P** Christ invites you to this table.

**C** Come, taste and see.

(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.*

- 1 "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?"
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"
- 3 "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?"
- 4 "Will you love the you you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?"
- 5 **Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949  
Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent  
7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com).  
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- 1 O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
ever the maker and keeper of my days.
- 2 You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting you besiege me:  
in ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.
- 3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past, and future, too.
- 4 Although your Spirit is upon me,  
still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:  
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.
- 5 For you created me and shaped me,  
gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:  
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
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Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

*(stand)*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** God of the abundant table,
- G** you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

### DISMISSAL OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

#### BLESSING

- ☐ God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace.  
And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

#### THREE-FOLD AMEN

#### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”*

ELW 802

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,<br/>follow his example pure,<br/>through a world that would deceive us<br/>and to sin our spirits lure.<br/>Onward in his footsteps treading,<br/>trav'lers here, our home above,<br/>full of faith and hope and love,<br/>let us do our Savior's bidding.<br/>Faithful Lord, with me abide;<br/>I shall follow where you guide.</b></p> | <p><b>3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.<br/>Since by death he conquered death,<br/>he will free us from destruction,<br/>give to us immortal breath.<br/>Let us mortify all passion<br/>that would lead us into sin;<br/>and the grave that shuts us in<br/>shall but prove the gate of heaven.<br/>Jesus, here with you I die,<br/>there to live with you on high.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,<br/>and with patience bear our cross.<br/>Joy will follow all our sadness;<br/>where he is there is no loss.<br/>Though today we sow no laughter,<br/>we shall reap celestial joy:<br/>all discomforts that annoy<br/>shall give way to mirth hereafter.<br/>Jesus, here I share your woe;<br/>help me there your joy to know.</b></p> | <p><b>4 Let us also live with Jesus.<br/>He has risen from the dead<br/>that to life we may awaken.<br/>Jesus, you are now our head,<br/>we are your own living members;<br/>where you live, there we shall be<br/>in your presence constantly,<br/>living there with you forever.<br/>Jesus, let me faithful be;<br/>life eternal grant to me.</b></p>                   |

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace, with Christ beside you.  
☑ Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

† † †

## KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Stephen Griffith	Transition Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Gretchen Olson Kopp	Vicar
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	Janitorial Staff
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)

September 3 & 4, 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.

### 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 memory of Lois Carlsen, by her children and grandchildren; given by Barb Chrisman in memory of her mom, Lois Soll

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by Paul & Carol Carlson in celebration of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday, September 4.

### Adult Forum

#### Fellowship Hall, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This Week:** Welcome Vicar Gretchen **Next week:** Rally Day

### We Welcome our Part-Time Vicar!

You will find Vicar Gretchen Olson Kopp at Kountze Memorial most Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. She will be installed this weekend, September 3 and 4. To help celebrate her entering into ministry with us, we ask that you join us for

- a celebration potluck on Saturday, September 3 at 6:00 PM.
- or join in during Fellowship hour on Sunday, September 4, and enjoy a piece of cake and express your words of welcome during Fellowship

### Flower "Vases" Needed

If you buy the large cans of juice, we are in need of the empty cans to use when we deliver flowers. The cleaned cans can be put on the counter by the back office door and we'll put them to good use. Thanks!

## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### September 4 Sunday

Pentecost 13  
Homebound Communion  
Installation of Vicar Gretchen  
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 Welcome Vicar Gretchen

### September 5 Monday

Labor Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

### September 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

### September 7 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study  
12:15 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### September 8 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board  
11:30 AM Property Committee  
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

### September 9 Friday

5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal  
5:00 PM Pantry

### September 10 Saturday

3:00 PM Jensen & Bennett Wedding  
5:00 PM Worship

### September 11 Sunday

Pentecost 14  
Rally Day  
God's Work, Our Hands Sunday  
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  
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast  
10:10 AM 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)  
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)  
10:10 AM Adult Forum  
10:15 AM New Member Class  
12:15 PM Book Group  
3:00 PM Tri-Faith Walk

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### Be A Sunday School Teacher Assistant!

Experience the joy of watching our children learn the stories of God's people. You can help once a month or however often you'd like. The opportunity to work with Preschool, K—2<sup>nd</sup> graders, and 3<sup>rd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> graders are available. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org). Your leadership would be greatly appreciated!

### Register for Sunday School

Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/Kristinboe/SundaySchoolRegistration>. The link can be found on the KMLC Parent and Friends Facebook Group. You can also stop into the Sunday School office to register your child there. All children, ages infant through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, should register for the 2022/23 Sunday School Year.

### Be a Part of the Breakfast Crew!

Join with others in bringing back this popular ministry for our congregation. We encourage 4 more people who would like to get to know and work with others in the congregation once a month to make and serve breakfast from 8:00 to 11:30 AM. There are just 3 more places for bakers to bring 2 dozen muffins or pastries every other month, and 1 opening as a crew leader from 8:30 to 11:00 AM for Continental Breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month. What a blessing this service will be for you and the congregation! A huge thank you to all who have stepped up! We will serve breakfast each Sunday from 9:30—11:00 AM beginning on Sunday, September 11.

### Lift Your Voice in Song!

#### Kountze Adult Choir

Come and join our amazing group of musicians who sing praise to God and have fun together. Help us to continue making vibrant and beautiful music at Kountze. The adult choir will have its first meeting/rehearsal Wednesday, September 7 from 7 to 8:30 PM. The choir will return to the worship services on Sunday, September 11. If you are interested in being a part of this important part of worship, we would be very glad to welcome you. Past singing experience in high school or college is helpful. If you want more information about choir or would like to join our choir, please contact Barb Carlsen in the church office at 402-341-7761.

### Bible Studies Continue

**Mondays, 6:00 PM or  
Wednesdays, 11:00 AM**

#### Enter Through the Farnam Office Doors

Join Pastor Shari and others in the Fellowship Lounge. We will gather around the Word and explore how the Bible speaks to our lives today. We will try out a few different ways to approach study of the Bible before deciding as a group how to proceed. Looking forward to a weekly journey with you and your Bibles.

### Confirmation

**Wednesdays, beginning September 7  
6:00 PM—7:15 PM**

The Kountze Confirmation program is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a time to begin to affirm their baptismal faith. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Shari.

## Children's Choir

Barb Carlsen, Children Choir Director

Beginning Sunday, September 11

Second Floor Music Room

9:15 AM (after the 9 AM Children's Blessing)

Grades K-5 - Choir

Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants

Barb Carlsen is excited to work with our Children's Choir again this year. Students in grades 6-8 may participate as Director Assistants. Director Assistants will help lead and assist the younger children in singing the music, working with children on their speaking parts for the Christmas program, and adding instruments to our choral singing. If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

## New Member Class

September 11 & 18, 10:15 - 11:30 AM (Note time change)

If you are interested in finding out more about Kountze Memorial or would like to join our congregation, please consider attending our next New Member class. Childcare is provided. Please call the church office to register and let us know if you need childcare. God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service

Sunday, September 11, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Tri-Faith Center (13136 Faith Plaza)

Join us at the Tri-Faith Campus. There will be a time for walking, Food Trucks, live performances, and family-friendly exhibits. Our day of service will focus on learning about our siblings of the Abrahamic Faith. Please register at [walk@trifaith.org](mailto:walk@trifaith.org). If you are able to give a donation, please do so. Get on your walking shoes to learn and connect with our larger faith community!

Lutheran Women Omaha,

Tuesday, September 13, 1200 Noon

Bethel Lutheran Church

For info & reservations call Faith at 402 734 4629.

September Men's Lunch

Thursday September 15

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost is \$10.00

This month we will learn more about the Tri Faith Initiative. Our speaker is Erik Servellon, the Vice President of Operations and Development for the Tri Faith Initiative. Please call the church office by Tuesday September 13 to make your reservation or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays. We hope you'll join us.

## Mark Your Calendars for the Kountze Memorial

"Old Fashioned Church Picnic/Potluck"

Sunday September 25, 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Everyone is invited to attend the all Church picnic/potluck. There will be lots of activities for young and old alike. The Church will provide the fried chicken or macaroni & cheese and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or desert to share with everyone. You're also encouraged to "Bring Your Favorite Blanket" to put down in the green space as you enjoy lunch and conversations while enjoying our green space between the Church and Commons building. Of course we will have table seating outside, in the link, and the Fellowship Hall. A buffet style lunch will begin at 11:30 AM, with games starting around 12:30 in the green space and, what would our picnic be without BINGO and prizes?! Join us in the Fellowship Hall starting at 1:00 PM. Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk to let us know how many will be attending and if you can provide either a side or dessert. You can also call the church office or email [jim@kmlchurch.org](mailto:jim@kmlchurch.org) to RSVP.

## Kountze Food Pantry

The Kountze Food Pantry is asking you to clean your home pantries! Yes, we are collecting any and all odd (not expired) food items. We have an "extras" section of the pantry, where guests get to choose from an assortment. This allows our guests the chance to get a few things they normally wouldn't have access to. Good items to donate are: jelly, ketchup, mustard, salad dressings, mayonnaise, seasonings, cooking oil, flour etc. We also continue to collect hygiene products. We are especially in need of bar soap or body wash. Remember, we can once again reuse dry, clean plastic grocery bags. Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Kountze Food Pantry! Please continue to sign up in the Meeting Room A in the Fellowship Hall, or at the following link:

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

## Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 37

Sunday: 9:00: 127 11:00: 56

Wednesday: 12:15: 9

Total: 229

Streaming: 49

Cox Cable: 169

Pantry Guests Served: 1551 (inc. 417 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 16

Offering: 8/14

\$10,253.45 (Regular) \$5,145.92 (Specials)

\$1,130.00 (Debt Reduction)

Offering: 8/21

\$10,346.95 (Regular) \$1,430.19 (Specials)

\$687.40 (Debt Reduction)

Offering: 8/28

\$18468.5 (Regular) \$1070.59 (Specials)

\$1162.5 (Debt Reduction)

## Love for all the saints.

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

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Philemon's love and faith
Wednesday	Psalms 82:1-5	A plea for justice
Thursday	John 15:12-17	Jesus the true vine
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin

taking  
faith  
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

*When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. **Philemon 1:4-5 (NRSV)***

### A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to treat all people with respect and honor that together we may bring healing to the church and to society, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks for this, our food. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and give you peace and courage.

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

- What words would you use to describe your family?
- Who do you consider to be your brother/sister in Christ and why?

*Read:* Philemon 1:1-21.

This letter truly focuses on the power of the law of love. Paul gives us the founding principle to free the lives of others. Onesimus was a runaway slave who was imprisoned with Paul. Philemon was his master. Philemon had the legal right to have Onesimus killed as his runaway slave. However, Paul is requesting Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother, just as Paul has treated Onesimus as a son. He uses language of being part of the same family. Paul wants a brother in Christ to treat a slave not as property but as a saint, that is, a fellow believer in Christ. Paul could have demanded this of Philemon, but the law of love makes Paul's approach one of free consent, not domination. With Philemon free to make the call, Onesimus can be freed to be a brother, a fellow heir with Paul and Philemon. Through the gospel of Christ, the law of love heals broken relationships in church and society.

*Discuss:* How can caring for one another in the body of Christ bring freedom and fairness to all people?

*Pray:* **Loving God, free us to care for others as you care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

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

Jesus said, "*Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple*" (Luke 14:27). This isn't easy. It means that we sometimes have to do things that are hard or that we don't want to do. Think or talk about what this means for you. Make a small cross out of pipe cleaners or wire and carry it in your pocket this week as a reminder of Jesus' words. Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, free me of all that keeps me from following you.**

**Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10