

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
Gretchen Olson Kopp, Vicar

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

January 15, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

BAPTISM of OUR LORD



In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Largo from Fantasia in Bb for Violin Solo

Georg Philipp Telemann
Keith Plenert, *violin*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- C** Amen.
- P** Joined in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- P** We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,
- C** for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, life-giving rivers – the Missouri and the Platte, Standing Bear and Cunningham Lakes. You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.
- P** Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”

ELW 448

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 This is the Spirit's entry now:
the water and the word,
the cross of Jesus on your brow,
the seal both felt and heard. | 3 Let water be the sacred sign
that we must die each day
to rise again by his design
as foll'wers of his way. |
| 2 This miracle of life reborn
comes from the Lord of breath;
the sinless one from life was torn;
our life comes through his death. | 4 Renewing Spirit, hear our praise
for your baptismal pow'r
that washes us through all our days.
Come, cleanse again this hour. |

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933
Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSING FOR REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

- P** Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us of our sins, strengthen us in all goodness by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.


APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

KYRIE


Refrain




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the




u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

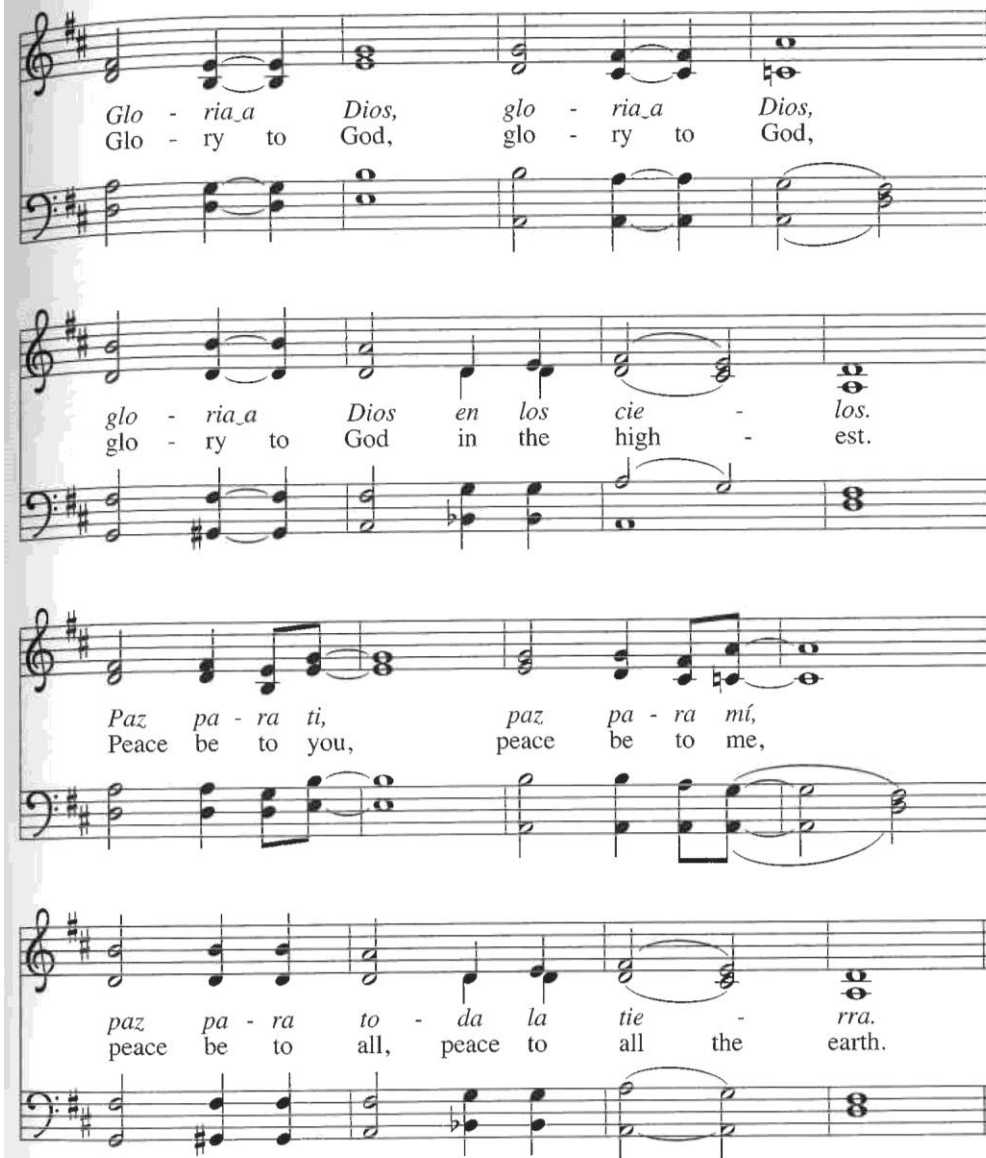


this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.



Glo - ria_a Dios, glo - ria_a Dios,
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

glo - ria_a Dios en los cie - los.
glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,
Peace be to you, peace be to me,

paz pa - ra to - da la tie - rra.
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ O God our Father,
- ☑ at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through 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

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (read responsively, follow choir for refrain)



The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.** 📖

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.** 📖

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. ☒

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to God. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



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



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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either 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, and Ms. Carlsen for Children's Choir.

SERMON

Pastor Griffith

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Crashing Waters at Creation"

ELW 455

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death:</p> <p>2 Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage—
channel to a life made new.</p> | <p>3 Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.</p> <p>4 Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
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www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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THE NICENE 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 We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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)

Sympathy: to the family and friends Carol Duncan, sister of Debbie Robinson; to the family and friends of Gretchen “Peggy” Mackinzie-Hesse

Thanksgiving: for the marriage of Conner Koerperich & Christin Williamsen (January 14, 2023)

Prayers This Week: Marv Anderson, Betty Callies, Ruth & Charles Martis, Kathy Preninger, Mark Robinson, husband of Debbie Robinson

On-going Care: Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Marge Grabow, Casey Hansen, Susie Henry, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Lara McCormick, Darlene White, Debra Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Brenden Frerck, Wyatt Johnson, Tyler Johnston, 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

“Into The Waters”

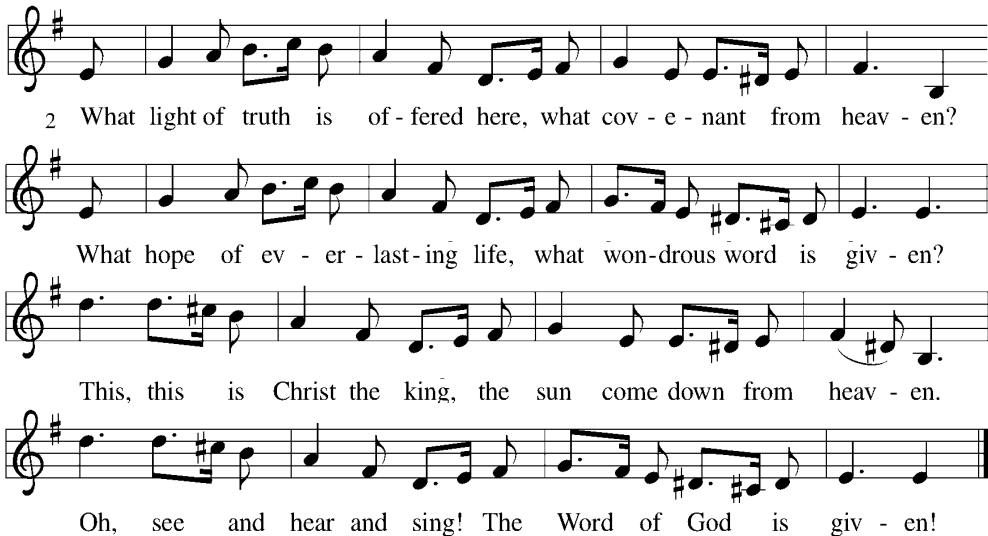
by Patti Drennan
Kountze Choir & Keith Plenert, violin

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487 vs. 2



2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Liberating God,
- ☑ you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

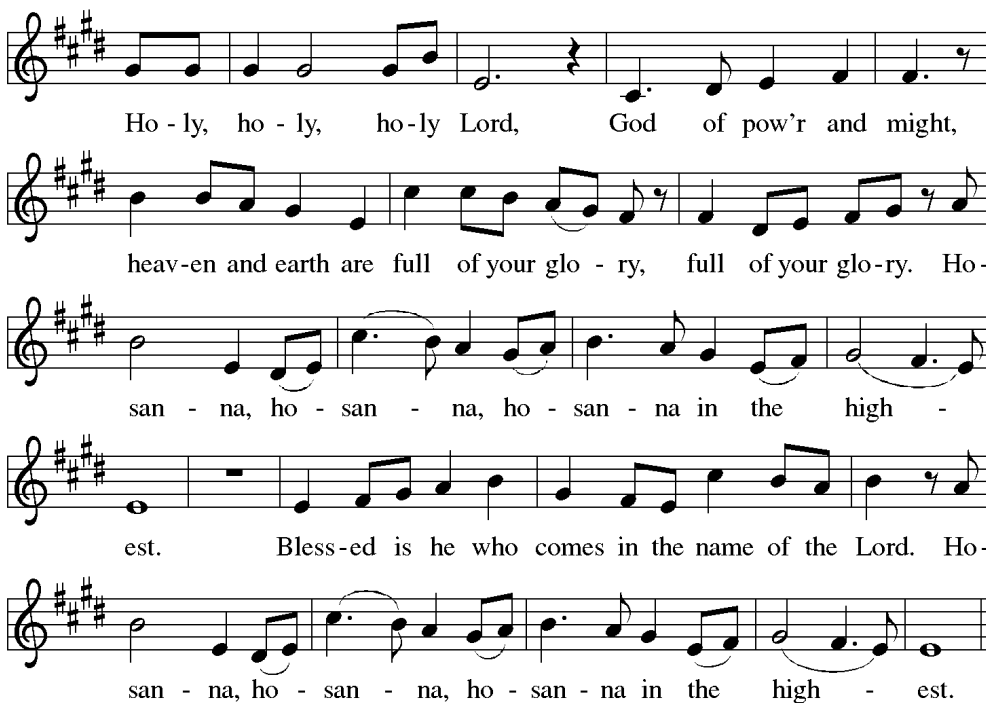
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

SANCTUS



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

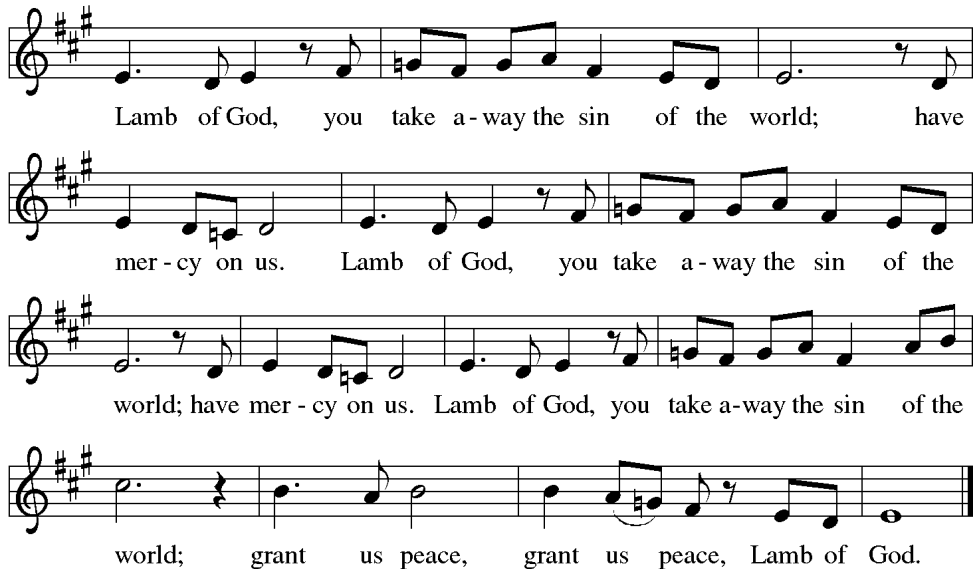
- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: ... Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** With this bread and cup ... We look with hope for his coming.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit ... Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** All praise and glory are yours, ... one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

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, Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and taste the joy of God!

(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.

REFLECTION

Words of reflection during communion; by Roy Makeever, (ACS 955)

*All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;
all who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come: come to the Water of life.
All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch;
all who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come: come to the Water of life.
All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth;
all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come: come to the Water of life.
All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace;
all who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come: come to the Water of life.*

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"Baptized in Water"

ELW 456

**1 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**2 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

**3 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932
Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin.
Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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- 1** Wash, O God, our sons and daughters;
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart’s delight.
- 2** We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup
of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.
- 3** Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
waterwashed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreated us; God, transform!

Text: English traditional

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Holy One,
G we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

ELW 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
☩ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach
Mark Jones, *organ*
Keith Plenert, *violin*

☩ ☩ ☩

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
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

January 14 & 15, 2023

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 worshipping, 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.

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God Christin (Williamsen) & Conner Koerperich in honor of their marriage Saturday

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of David Carlsen by his children and grandchildren

Television Broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by Sharon Arispe in honor of her dad, Donald Hirsh, in celebration of his 90th birthday

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Nursery

Sundays, 8:45 AM—Noon

Children 0—2 years

Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it. We are need volunteers to assist as we are required to have two people in the nursery to remain open. High schoolers or other adults are encouraged to e-mail Nursery@kmlchurch.org or reach out to Shannon Picha personally if interested in assisting.

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 Focus: The Ark and the Tent

In January, we will be focusing on stories from the Old Testament. In this lesson, the students will learn about how Moses encountered God's presence on the mountain and in the tent.

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. 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. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

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 9:00 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.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Today at Kountze, *continued*

Youth Forum

Grades 7—12

7th – 12th graders meet each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50 AM in the Youth Room. Join us for this time of community, learning and serving. **This week:** Catching up and sharing current events **Next week:** Bible Study

Adult Forum

Fellowship Hall

10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Fellowship **Next Week:** Spiritual Direction

New Member Class

January 15 & 22

10:15—11:30 AM

If you're interested in learning more about Kountze Memorial and the possibility of becoming a member of our congregation, please attend the New Member classes held this week and next (please plan to attend both classes). Childcare is available. New members will be received on January 29. Hope to see you there.

This Week at Kountze Memorial

January 15 Sunday

Baptism of Our Lord
Good News Deadline
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 (K-5)
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:15 PM New Member Class

January 16 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr.
OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM Carol Duncan Funeral
6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

January 17 Tuesday

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

January 18 Wednesday

11:00 AM Bible Study

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Class

January 19 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
6:00 PM Circle 5
6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

January 20 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

January 21 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

January 22 Sunday

Epiphany 3
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 (K-5)
9:30—11:00 AM Breakfast
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:15 PM New Member Class

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

6:30 PM

7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening beginning again on January 4 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Lounge. During the month of January, we will be studying the Creeds of the church.

Bible Study

Mondays, 6:00 PM or

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM

We will explore Epiphany Themes as we unwrap the present of Christ in our lives. Enter through the Farnam office door to join with others and Pastor Shari for time of learning and sharing.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, January 19

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

Our speaker John O'Keefe, BA, PhD is a Professor of Theology and Journalism at Creighton University. He has recently finished a documentary film "The Last Prairie – The Nebraska Sandhills". John will talk to us about what inspired the making of the movie and we will get a chance to watch it (movie is about an hour long). Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 17.

What is Spiritual Direction?

How does it differ from therapy or pastoral counseling? What might be the benefits of meeting regularly with a spiritual director? How do you go about finding and forming a relationship with a spiritual director? Come to the January 22 Adult Forum led by Vicar Gretchen to explore the answers to these questions and more.

Annual Report

All Committee Chairs: Please have your report to Debbie in the church office no later than Sunday, January 22. Thank you!

Journey to DENVER

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8th – 12th graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Registration is extended till **January 29** for \$400.00 and **February 25** for \$500.00. Our home base will be at Colorado Christian University, with lodging offered in suite style dorm rooms. Each day we will be doing service projects, sharing in community building activities, bible study and worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join the Nebraska Synod ELCA high school making the journey together this coming summer! Friends are welcome to join our group.

Jumping with Jesus Through Life's Highs and Lows

4-6th graders

Friday, January 27

6:45-9:00 PM

Altitude Trampoline Park

5575 N 90th St

A Trampoline Park formation adventure for youth from across Omaha's Lutheran Congregations will gather for fellowship, creative learning, and lots of jumps! Friends are welcome as long as they register. Treats and water provided. Register and pay Pastor Shari by Wednesday January 25. **You must fill out Altitude's jump waiver on their website or this link: <https://altitude.active8pos.com/public/waiver/video?loc=OMAHA>

Carol Joy Holling Camp 2023

Register for camp by January 31 and **receive \$50 off and get a free CJH Camp Beanie**. The Early Bird \$50 discount applies to all full-week sessions at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The first 500 campers registered before January 31 will receive a CJH Camp Beanie.

Ladies, Mark Your Calendars

Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat

Exploring Spiritual Practices

Theme: **Open My Heart, Lord**

Saturday, February 18

10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Join One of Our Kountze Café Teams!

There are still opportunities to join the breakfast crew. We need the following:

2nd Sunday - Continental Breakfast

- someone(s) to make mini quiches on **Saturday**
- 2 people to set up from 8:00-9:00 AM
- 2 people to clean up from 10:45 – 11:30 AM

3rd Sunday of the month

- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

4th Sunday of the month

- someone(s) to make French Toast Bake on **Saturday**
- kitchen help from 8:00 – 11:30 AM

Families are welcome to serve together. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this ministry and then let Pastor Shari know how you are able to serve.

Dinners for 8

Sign up by Sunday, January 29

We are providing an opportunity to get to know others in the congregation over 3 dinners for 3 months. Placed in a group of 8 people, you will decide to eat out or do potluck at a host home. It is the hope that you will meet each month for a meal for the months of February, March, and April. Through meal and conversation our relationships with one another can grow as we continue the work of Christ at Kountze Memorial. Groups will be formed with those interested and notification of the groups will be distributed by February 1! See you around the table!

Kountze Pantry

We are collecting gloves, especially adult men's gloves. We never seem to have enough! We also would appreciate peanut butter and canned (not jars) pasta sauce as these two items are difficult to purchase in quantity. If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please sign up at the following link:

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

Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 36

Sunday: 9:00: 145 **11:00:** 76

Wednesday: 12:15: 11 **Confirmation:** 6

deFreese Manor: 5

Total: 279

Streaming: 80

Pantry Guests Served: 996 (inc. 293 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 26

Offering:

\$20,403.27 (Regular) \$6,880.91 (Specials)

\$3,568.56 (Debt Reduction)

Baptism leads us to speak of Christ to others.

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

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servants
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Romans 10:5-17	Salvation is for all
Thursday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Jeremiah's call and commission
Friday	Colossians 4:2-5	Rules for Christian living
Saturday	Psalms 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God



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"You know the message he [God] sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced. Acts 10:36-37 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for the ministry of Jesus that began with his baptism and announced that he is your Son and the Beloved. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you that through your glory and strength, you give us food from your creation and send us out in Jesus' name. Amen. (Psalm 29:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May you go forth knowing you are a beloved child of God.

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

- What gives you strength and confidence to do things each day?
- What does it mean to you that you are God's beloved child?

Read: Acts 10:34-48.

Just prior to Peter baptizing Cornelius (a Roman soldier) and others in his household, Peter speaks and says he now realizes that all—not just Jews—are acceptable to God. Peter speaks of Jesus and his ministry that began with the baptism of John and Jesus' anointing "with the Holy Spirit and with power" (v. 38). Jesus' baptism by John is not the same as our baptism, but Peter does make a clear connection. The same Holy Spirit that is at Jesus' baptism is also at our baptism. As Cornelius and his group heard Peter's sermon about Jesus, the circumcised believers present were amazed that this non-Jewish community had received the Holy Spirit. Because of that, Peter was compelled to baptize all of them. Jesus' baptism leads to his public ministry just as our baptism leads us by the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to what God has done and continues to do through Christ our Lord. Our own baptism and that of others creates an opportunity to witness to the Christian faith.

Discuss: How does a baptism give someone an opportunity to speak about the Christian faith?

Pray: **God of power and might, just as Jesus received the Holy Spirit and power in his baptism, empower us in ours to speak of your saving work through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you show the Christian faith through actions and words?

Jesus' baptism by John leads Jesus into his public ministry filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Since the New Testament, baptism has initiated our life in Christ to go out into the world in Jesus' name. Make a list of how you would like to be empowered by God to do good and to bring God's healing power to others. Bless one another with these words: **Go out in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit with the peace of God meant for all.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: