

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

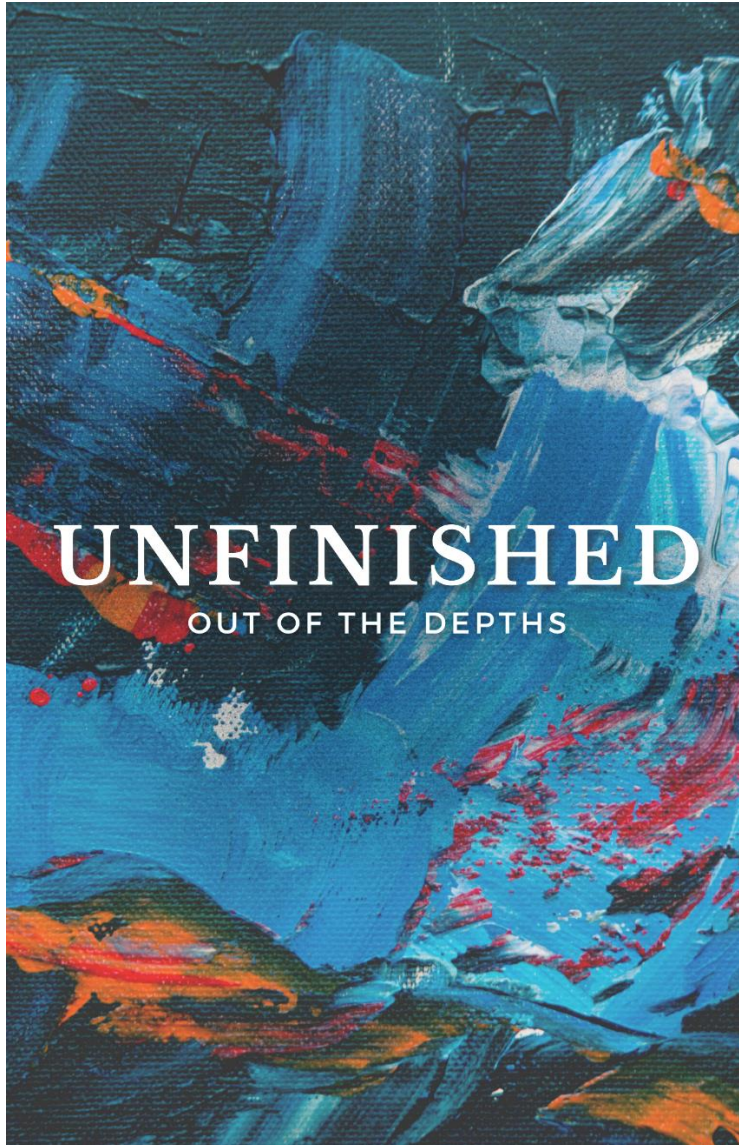
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

Lenten Evening Service

VESPERS

6:30 PM



GATHERING

Lights will remain dim during worship, feel free to sit in the back few pews if more light would be helpful.

Please stand as the Sanctus bells are rung.

GREETING

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P We gather because the Triune God has brought us here. We meet because Jesus invites us to be with him in prayer. As we worship, the Holy Spirit gives us life.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Merciful God,

C **We wander. We run away.**

**We think we can do things our own way
but we end up in messes of our own making
and problems we can't solve.**

**Find us when we are stuck, in a pit of despair
or on a boat to nowhere.**

Reveal our faults and forgive our sin.

**Send us back out with words and actions
to help the world that you love so much.**

P None of us can flee from the love of God, not in the heights of heaven or the pit of grief in loss. God will always find us with love that beckons us home.

So hear the words that each of us need: You are loved beyond all knowing.

You are forgiven in the name of Jesus. †

You are free. You are unfinished. You are beloved.

C **Amen.**

(sit)

GATHERING HYMN

"Out of the Depths I Cry to You"



Out of the depths I cry to you; O
 All things you send are full of grace; you
 In you alone, O God, we hope, and
 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as



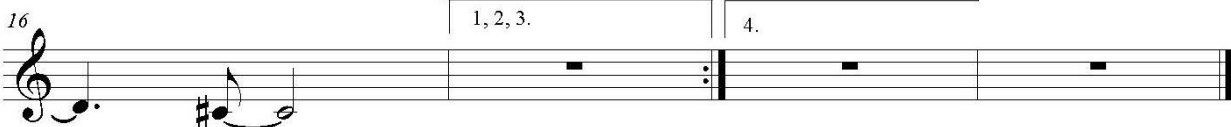
Lord God, hear me call - ing. In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in
 crown our lives with fa - vor. All our good works are done in vain with -
 not in our own mer - it. We rest our fears in your good Word and
 one who longs for morn - ing; no watch - er waits with great - er hope than



spite of my re - bell - ing. Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds.
 out our Lord and Sav - ior. We praise you for the gift of faith;
 trust your Ho - ly Spir - it. Your pro - mise keeps us strong and sure;
 I for your re - turn - ing. I hope as Is - rael in the Lord,



Send me the grace my spi - rit needs; with - out it I am noth -
 you save us from the grip of death; our lives are in your keep -
 we trust the cross, your sig - na - ture. in - scribed up - on our tem -
 who sends re - demp - tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer -



- - ing.
 - - ing.
 - - ples.
 - - cy!

Text: Martin Lutheran, tr. composite

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Music: © 2023 Timothy Graf

WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ God of creation and compassion,

☑ **we do not always perceive our neighbors as you do. Whereas your heart overflows with love for all creatures, ours often wane. Expand the walls of hearts so that they can welcome others as you do. Amen.**

READING

Jonah 3

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

☐ We rest our fears in your good Word.

☑ **And trust your Holy Spirit.**

SERMON

INVITATION TO THE CROSS

- ☐ Come, to the cross, to the heart of God. Bring your own heart as it is –
Hardened or not, Broken or not, Fearful or not, Faithful or not, All of us, unfinished.
God welcomes us and breathes into our hearts the Spirit of Christ’s redeeming love.

PRAYER AT THE CROSS

All are welcome to come forward and light a candle. You may kneel for prayer at the railing or pray at your seat. You may also sit near the foot of the cross. This will be a signal that you would welcome others to stand near you and perhaps lay a hand on your shoulder as a sign that you are not praying alone.

HYMNS DURING PRAYER

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”

ELW 814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

“Day by Day”

ELW 790



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

PRAYER

- ☐ Let us pray. Compassionate God,
- ☑ **In Christ's gentle and suffering love you have shown us the way of abundant life. Keep us joined to Christ's life-giving passion, that our hearts may know the joy and freedom for which you have created us, now and forever. Amen.**

A prayer from "A Heart of Flesh" liturgy in Holden Prayer Around the Cross

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ The blessed, holy Trinity keep us in grace and grant us peace.
- ☑ **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

- ☐ You may leave quietly or stay a while to pray.
You may also meet with a pastor for individual prayer, confession, or healing.
When you go, go in peace. God is near.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Depart in Silence