

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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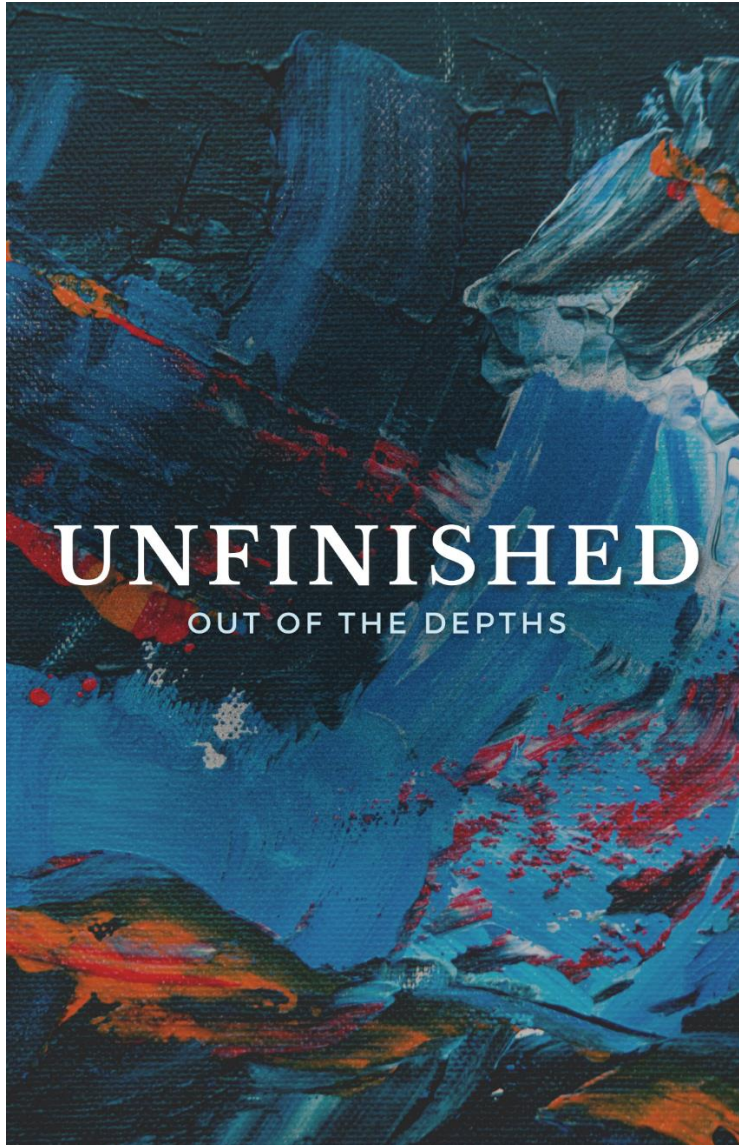
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

Lenten Evening Service

VESPERS

6:30 PM



GATHERING

Please stand and face the back as the Sanctus bells are rung.

(stand)

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 finished. You are beloved.

C Amen.

(sit)

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



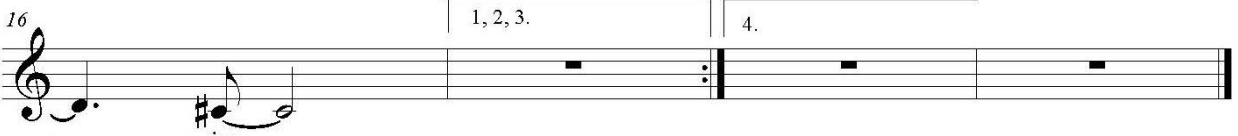
Lord God, hear me call - ing. In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in
crown our lives with fa - vor. All our good works are done in vain with -
not in our own mer - it. We rest our fears in your good Word and
one who longs for morn - ing; no watch - er waits with great - er hope than



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

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- The peace of Christ be with you.
- And also with you.

WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ God of creation and compassion,
- ☑ you often show up in unexpected and disruptive ways. Help us to hear your voice when our lives are churning, to perceive your compassion in the storm, and to hope in your resurrection even as we face death.

READING

Jonah 1:1-4, 17

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me. ³But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

⁴But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up.

¹⁷ But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

☐ We rest our fears in your good Word.

☑ **And trust your Holy Spirit.**

PSALM 139:1-10

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

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

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

ELW 751

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.
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“O God, You Search Me”

ACS 1082



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
 2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
 3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
 4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
 5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
 You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
 you have known its mean - ing through and through.
 still I search for shel - ter from your light.
 gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
 and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
 You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
 There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
 For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
 in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
 God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture,
 e - ven the dark - ness is ra - dian in your sight.
 safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

(stand)

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 keeps 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