

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

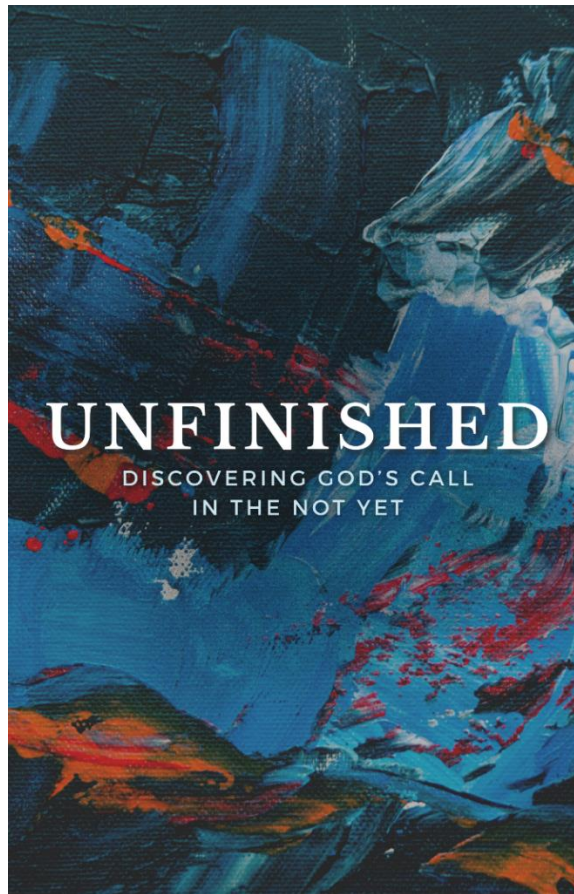
Stephen Griffith, Transition Senior Pastor  
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
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March 19, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT



*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

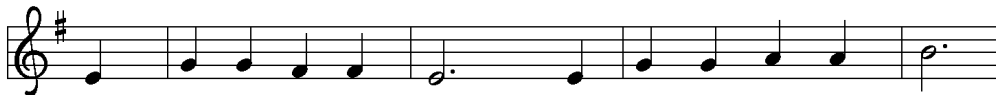
- 1 **Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.**
- 2 **To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.**
- 3 **There is one body and one hope,  
one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
one God who made us all.**
- 4 **Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.**
- 5 **For us Christ lived, for us he died,  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.**

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984  
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ,  
**C** and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

**T**he Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he

said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

☪ Word of God, Word of Life.

☩ Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 23 *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

**<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### SECOND READING

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

☪ Word of God, Word of Life.

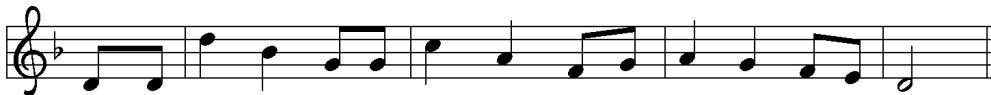
☩ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 9:1-41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

**A**s Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to

God! We know that this man is a sinner.”<sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ 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, and Ms. Carlsen for Children’s Choir.*

### **SERMON**

*Pastor Hall*

(stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Christ, the Life of All the Living”*

**ELW 339**

- 1 **Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, yourself for me once giving  
to the darkest depths of woe:  
through your suff'ring, death, and merit  
life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 2 **You have suffered great affliction  
and have borne it patiently,  
even death by crucifixion,  
fully to atone for me;  
for you chose to be tormented  
that my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 3 **Then, for all that bought my pardon,  
for the sorrows deep and sore,  
for the anguish in the garden,  
I will thank you evermore;  
thank you for the groaning, sighing,  
for the bleeding and the dying,  
for that last triumphant cry,  
praise you evermore on high.**

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681;  
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

**THE APOSTLES' CREED (9:00 AM)**

- ☩** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☩** **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.**



## HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)

### 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)*

**Thanksgiving:** for the birth of Jair, son of Melody Diggins Corona and Tony Corona

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Nancy Jensen, aunt of Tom Jensen & Ron Muchmore

**Prayers This Week:** Joel Brown, Jerry Fischer, Julie Green, Paul Sum

**On-going Care:** Marlys & Gordon Bergjord, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Gerald & Jason Klonglan, Rosanne Klug, Orville & Julie Knapp, Ruth & Charles Martis, Lara McCormick, Kathy Preninger, 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

*“Keep God’s Light”*

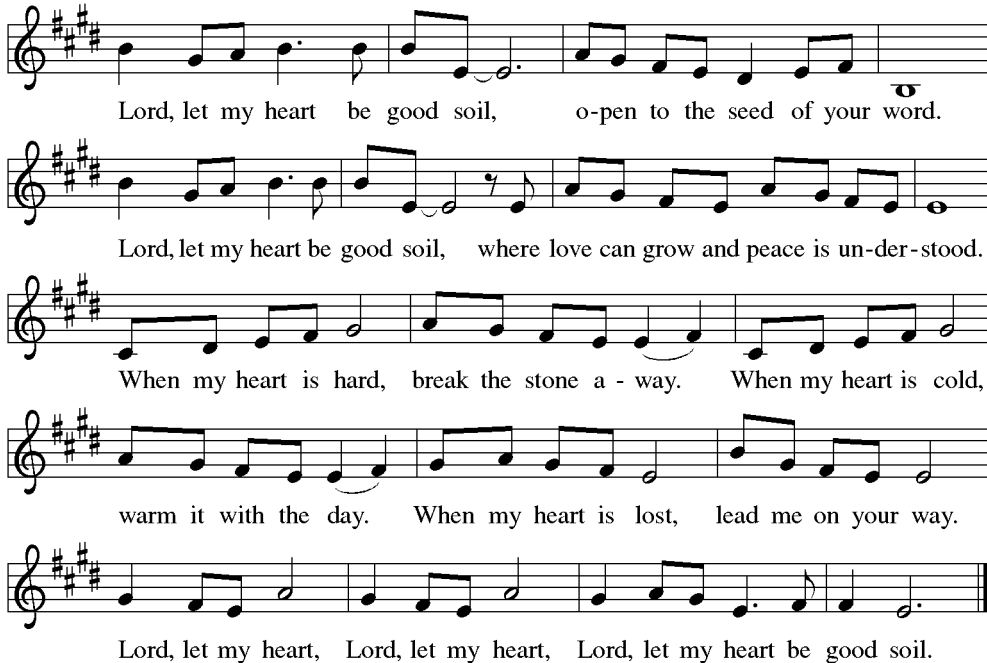
Mark Patterson

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*

ELW 512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of good gifts,  
**C** receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover  
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P** O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.

- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** With your holy ones of all times and places, ...  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come and receive Jesus,  
**C** our strength in the wilderness.

(sit)

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.*

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"*

**ELW 520**

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.**
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.**

- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.**
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.**

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3;  
*Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4;  
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

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**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.**

**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.**

**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done.**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

*(stand)*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**☩** Embodied God,

**☩** at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“God, Whose Almighty Word”*

**ELW 673**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> God, whose almighty word<br/>chaos and darkness heard<br/>and took their flight:<br/>hear us, we humbly pray,<br/>and where the gospel day<br/>sheds not its glorious ray,<br/>let there be light.</p> <p><b>2</b> Christ, who once came to bring,<br/>on your redeeming wing,<br/>healing and sight;<br/>health to the troubled mind,<br/>sight where illusions blind;<br/>oh, now to humankind<br/>let there be light.</p> | <p><b>3</b> Spirit of truth and love,<br/>life-giving, holy dove,<br/>speed forth your flight;<br/>move on the water's face<br/>bearing the lamp of grace,<br/>and in earth's darkest place<br/>let there be light.</p> <p><b>4</b> Holy and blessed three,<br/>glorious Trinity,<br/>Wisdom, Love, Might:<br/>boundless as ocean's tide,<br/>rolling in fullest pride,<br/>through the earth, far and wide,<br/>let there be light.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Serve in love.  
☑ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠   ✠   ✠

## Worship with us this Lenten Season!

### Wednesdays in Lent

11:00 AM	Lenten Lunch
12:15 PM	Lenten Worship
5:00 PM	Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM	Lenten Worship (in person and Livestream)

Digital Devotions are also available through links from the weekly e-news and our church website. There are a few options that you might find helpful:

- ⦿ Weekly Wednesday Jonah – Children and Family Ideas
- ⦿ Weekly Sunday Lectionary - Children and Family Ideas
- ⦿ Near and Now Weekly Bible Study
- ⦿ Daily Unfinished Devotional
- ⦿ Weekly Vocare Guided Meditations and Videos





## 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](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

March 18 & 19, 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

**Eternal Candle** is given to the glory of God by the Jensen family in memory of our Aunt Nancy Jensen.

**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.

**Children's Choir**  
**Second Floor Music Room**  
**Sundays, 9:15 AM**—(after the 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)  
**Grades K-5 - Choir**  
**Grades 6-8 - Director's Assistants**

The choir will rehearse immediately after the children's blessing at the 9:00 AM service (9:15 AM). If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 402-341-7761.

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

Join us on Sundays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs.) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery).

**Sunday School Focus:**

Through the month of March, the Sunday School students will continue to learn of Jesus' life and his progression to the cross. Over the four weeks of March, the children will hear of Jesus' temptation in the desert, learn of Christ as a healer and parable-maker, study the time Jesus enters Jerusalem and shares bread and wine with the disciples, ending with the culmination of Jesus on the cross and the meaning of Easter.

**Youth Forum**  
**Grades 7—12**

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 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:** Bible Study **Next week:** Fun and games

**Adult Forum**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**10:10 AM**

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **This week:** Pondering the Crucifixion, Part 2 **Next Week:** Pondering the Crucifixion, Part 3

### 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 8:45 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*

### First Communion Classes

**Sundays, March 19 & 26**

**12:00 PM (following 11:00 AM service)**

**A light lunch is served before the hour long class.**

If your child is around second grade, or has expressed a curiosity about what it means to receive Communion, they are encouraged to join this class. First Communion will be taken on Maundy Thursday, April 6. Please RSVP to Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org).

### March Service Project

The Sunday School is collecting items for the Nebraska Humane Society for the March service project. Items can be brought to church and left in front of the Sunday School office. A list of donations can be found on the Humane Society website and include standard items of food, treats, toys, blankets, and more. Items to be gathered also include many recyclable items such as cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, and plastic coffee containers.

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## This Week at Kountze Memorial

### March 19 Sunday

Lent 4

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 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:00 PM First Communion Class (1 of 2)

### March 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

### March 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

### March 22 Wednesday

11:00 AM Lenten Lunch

12:15 PM Worship

5:00 PM Lenten Dinner

6:30 PM Worship

### March 23 Thursday

1:00 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

### March 24 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

### March 25 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

### March 26 Sunday

Lent 5

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 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6<sup>th</sup> gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:00 PM First Communion Class (2 of 2)

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## For Your Calendar/News & Notes

### First Communion Classes

**Sundays, March 26**

**12:00 PM (following 11:00 AM service)**

**A light lunch is served before the hour long class.**

If your child is around second grade, or has expressed a curiosity about what it means to receive Communion, they are encouraged to join this class. First Communion will be taken on Maundy Thursday, April 6. Please RSVP to Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org).

### Journey to Denver

The NE Synod Youth trip for 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders will take place July 10-15, 2023. Registration is extended until **March 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.

### Our Lenten Focus "Unfinished"

**UNFINISHED** – Discovering God's Call in Not Yet is written by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox and will be our focus for Sundays of Lent. She writes, "The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, "we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate this unfinished life by ourselves. God is here - present-tense, each and every day - calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us - over and over again."

We will be using the lectionary readings to focus on the following themes:

March 19      Called to Attentiveness

March 26      Called to Regret

April 2        Palm/Passion Sunday, Called to Experience God's Presence

April 9        Easter Sunday, Called to Resurrection

**UNFINISHED** – Out of the Depths is written by Dr. Michael J. Chan and will be our focus for Wednesdays in Lent on the book of Jonah. He says, “Jonah walks a Lenten path. Like all human beings, he is prone to wander from his Creator in favor of determining the shape and scope of his own future. This temptation is especially powerful when God calls us to take on risky ventures, travel to strange places, and confront things inside of us that prevent us from seeing one another as God does. God meets us in those liminal, Lent-like spaces when we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy.” Join us as we explore these themes:

March 22 Jonah 4; Faithful and Unfinished

March 29 Matthew 8:23-27 (cf. Mark 4:34-41; Luke 8:22-25);  
Jesus, a New Jonah

**UNFINISHED Digital Devotions** are also available on our church website, through links in the weekly e-news or use the QR code here. There are a few options that you might find helpful:



- Weekly Wednesday Jonah – Children and Family Ideas
- Weekly Sunday Lectionary – Children and Family Ideas
- Near and Now Weekly Bible Study
- Daily Unfinished Devotional
- Weekly Vocare Guided Meditations and Videos

You won't want to miss the chance to honor the space between no longer and not yet!"

### Wednesdays in Lent

**Meals Served 11:00 AM – Noon & 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

**Worship—12:15 & 6:30 PM**

All meals served with choice of water, iced tea or coffee (decaf at supper) and dessert. Meals are free will offering. Please remember that there is **No Parking** in the Methodist parking lot to the north of our handicapped entrance on Wednesdays - or any week day - from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. You may park on Farnam Street at the meters for 25 cents per hour, in our parking lot on the west side of the building, or in the deFreese parking lot.

### Menu for March 22

Minestrone or Creamy Potato Soup  
Ham or Chicken Sliders  
Dessert

If you would like to help in the kitchen, please contact Jim Smejkal (402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org)

### Omaha Lutheran Young Adults Trivia

**LOCAL Beer, Patio, and Kitchen at Village Point**

**17305 Davenport St**

**Tuesday, March 28**

**7:00 PM**

Come be a part of an OLYA trivia team in this social outing! RSVP to Greta at OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com.

### Holy Week & Easter Worship Assistants are Needed

We are in need Communion Assistants, Lectors, and Ushers for Holy Week and Easter - and Sundays in general. If you are already serving as Communion Assistants and/or Lectors, please sign up on SignUp Genius or call the church office (402-341-7761) to sign up according to your availability. If you are willing to serve as an Usher, please contact Jim (jim@kmlchurch.org or call the church office. If you aren't currently serving as a Communion Assistant or Lector but would like to, please contact the church office to sign up or to get a link to the SignUp Genius Page. We will be glad to walk you through a short training session before you serve. Thanks in advance for serving in this way.

### Camp Sunday

**Sunday, March 26**

Staff from the camp will be present during the Christian Education hour (10:00 to 11:00 AM) to share information and lead camp activities. We encourage parents to attend with their youth. We will start our time together in the Link. It is the hope that youth from KMLC (K-12<sup>th</sup> grade) will attend camp at Carol Joy Holling this summer. Due to a gift to our church, we are able to pay for the cost of camp at Carol Joy Holling this year. Register your child for camp and let the church office know so we can get the payment to the camp on behalf of those attending. Please speak with a pastor if you need more information.

### Mission Investment Fund & Baptismal Ministry

A new Baptismal Ministry is happening through the gift of the late Rev. Robert Johnson and Mary Ann Johnson. Each child that is baptized at KMLC will be receiving a \$100.00 Savings Account through the Mission Investment Fund. This account will be established by the church and then handed over to their parents with the hopes that investing in their child's future is just one more way the church can show support and care beyond our spiritual offerings.

### Kountze Pantry

Thanks to all of you who helped us save receipts from Family Fare! The good news is we raised thousands of dollars. The bad news is the program has ended, so we no longer need the receipts. The Kountze Food Pantry is in the process of partnering with Family Fare in a new reward program. We are still collecting hygiene products for our guests, especially feminine supplies and shaving razors and cream. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at the link below:

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

### Parking Citation

If you received a parking citation when parked at the meters on Farnam Street and shouldn't have, please call 402-444-7275 M-F from 8:00 AM—4:30 PM to dispute the citation. The meter attendant is new and will be receiving more training. If you put coins in the meter and it doesn't register, call the number above and let them know. If the meter has no coin slot, says "failed" or "out of order", use the Park Omaha app or move to another spot.

### Attendance & Giving

**Saturday:** 30

**Sunday: 9:00:** 124 **11:00:** 71

**Wednesday: 12:15:** 28 **6:30:** 58

**Total:** 311

**Streaming:** 54 (inc. Wednesday)

**Pantry Guests Served:** 1,285 (inc. 302 children)

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 21

**Offering:**

\$14,366.70 (Regular) \$116,522.05\* (Specials)

\$922.00 (Debt Reduction)

\*Includes Bonfante estate gift

*Faith sees while absolute certainty blinds.*

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

Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind
Monday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David is anointed king
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:8-14	Living as people of light
Wednesday	Jeremiah 1:4-19	Jeremiah's call
Thursday	Proverbs 15:1-5	The Lord sees everything
Friday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus and Zacchaeus
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus



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*Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." John 9:39 (NRSV)*

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

God of justice and mercy, heal us of our blindness that keeps us from loving you and our neighbor through Jesus Christ, the one who came that we may see. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food that reminds us of your overflowing goodness and mercy through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen. (Psalm 23)

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

May Christ's love shine on you with all that is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5)

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

- Think or talk about a time you were in a conversation and convinced you were right.
- How is faith in Jesus something different than being sure that you are right and others are wrong?

*Read:* John 9:1-41.

This story addresses extreme contrasts between sight and blindness, between those who see and those who do not see. Jesus heals a man born blind. The certainty of the Pharisees becomes their blindness. They try to refute the fact that the man was born blind. They despise him and drive him out for stating both the truth of the Jewish faith and saying that he was blind and now sees. Both the truth of the tradition and his experience are totally rejected. Jesus points out that it is the leaders' absolute certainty that shows how blind they are to the truth. There are times in our own lives when being absolutely certain about something and not seeking other possibilities shows our blindness. This story reminds us that faith and trust in Jesus is wiser and more honest than arrogant, self-confidence. Faith sees Jesus and his ability to create light and life. Human certainty is always in danger of being blind to who Jesus is and what he means for the world that God loves.

*Discuss:* How might your pride, sense of certainty, and arrogance get in the way of caring about others?

*Pray:* **God of truth, help us to let go of anything that blinds us to your love and work in the world so that we may see Jesus and follow him with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you address others with humility and the ability to learn from them?

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week think or talk about the needs of those who are blind or cannot see well. Some are unable to pay for glasses or receive medical care. Add a donation to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

*Pray:* **Loving God, help us to care for those in need of good eyesight. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45