

# ORDER OF SERVICE

December 25, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

Christmas Day  
Pastor Kristine Isder

*Welcome to Christmas Day worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church...* We rejoice that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, ... [not] to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:16-17).

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

## CANDLE LIGHTING

### THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1, 3b-5

*The minister lights a large candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world, of whom John’s gospel speaks.*

*Please hold your lit candle upright while others tip their unlit candle to light them, in order to minimize wax drips. We ask that if small children hold candles that it be done under the close supervision of their parents.*

## HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

ELW #281

*Please extinguish your candles.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of life,

C **you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.  
We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.  
Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.  
Amen.**

**P** Hear the good news:  
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C** **Amen.**

**GREETING AND PRAYER**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God  
sent from heaven above, be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**C** **All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has  
brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower  
us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever. Amen.**

**THE BIRTH OF JESUS: Luke 2:1-7**

**HYMN** "Away in a Manger" ELW #277

*Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth?*

**READING:** Luke 2:8-14

**P** Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**C** **who has sent us His Son.**

**HYMN** "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW #289

*Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See?*

**READING:** Luke 2:15-20

**P** Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**C** **who has sent us His Son.**

**HYMN** "The First Noel" (verses 1 & 2) ELW #300

***Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne?***

**READING:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**P** Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**C** **who has sent us His Son.**

**HYMN** "Joy to the World" (verses 1 & 2) ELW #267

***Who Is This God, Who Sends a Son?***

**READING:** John 1:1-14

**P** Glory to God in the highest heaven,

**C** **who has sent us His Son.**

**HYMN** "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" ELW #283

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN** "Once in Royal David's City" ELW #269

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**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

C **Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

P You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

C **Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**

P You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

C **Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**

P You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

C **May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**            “The First Noel”            (verses 3 & 5)            ELW #300

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God with us:

C **You came as a baby to a manger.**

**You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.**

**You come again in bread and wine.**

**Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.**

**And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others  
in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

## THE PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

P Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

C **And may the Lord be with you too.**

P Lift your hearts to Him in praise.

C **To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

P Let us offer praises true.

C **It is fitting so to do: Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### HOLY COMMUNION

*We invite all those who are baptized to share this special meal of forgiveness and renewal. Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers and apple juice are available.*

<b>DISTRIBUTION HYMNS</b>	“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”	ELW #275
	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	ELW #279
	“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”	ELW #282
	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	ELW #288

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**P** May Christ, who by his incarnation Has filled us with grace and truth,  
Give you peace this Christmas and always.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

<b>HYMN</b>	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	ELW #270
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### **DISMISSAL**

**P** Glory to God in the highest!

**C** **Peace to God’s people on earth!**

**P** Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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