

First Sunday of Advent



November 26, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

*Kviteseid Lutheran Church
308 North Third Street
Milan, Minnesota*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... On this first day of Advent, Lord, I am eager for your coming — at Christmas, at the end of time and in the present moment. Amen.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN “We Light the Advent Candles” *printed*

Verse 1: *We light the Advent candles
against the winter night
to welcome our Lord Jesus,
who is the world’s true light;
to welcome our Lord Jesus,
who is the world’s true light.*

Verse 2: *The first one will remind us
that Christ will soon return.
We light it in the darkness
and watch it gleam and burn.
We light it in the darkness
and watch it gleam and burn.*

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INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

**CALL TO WORSHIP

P O that God would tear open the heavens and come down! *Isa. 64:1*
Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God. *Mark 13:32*
Be alert! Keep awake! *Mark 13:33, 37*
The time is drawing near:
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, *Mark 1:1*
the Son of God.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.** *2 Cor. 13:13*

DIALOG

P In the beginning was the Word,
C **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

P In the Word was life,
C **and the life was the light of all people.**

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,
C **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

John 1

SCRIPTURE SONG "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

ELW #241

(Alt. tune: ELW #820)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

L ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

C ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C ⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume
when your people pray?**

L ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C ⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

L ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life,
that we may call upon your name.

C ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us,
and we shall be saved.**

LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW #244

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal
of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Eph. 1:13-14

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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 Pilot,
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.**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Jude 20

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jude 21

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!**

2 Cor. 5:17

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and
unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we
may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your
holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord
Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways,
encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

2 Cor. 13:11

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Praise and Thanksgiving" (vs. 1 & 4) ELW #689

OFFERTORY PRAYER

C **God of Peace, you have blessed us in so many ways. Today we return
blessings and thankfulness to you. Bless these gifts and all gathered here
that we may be bearers of peace to your world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

**CHARGE

P Beware. Keep alert. Keep awake.
God is doing awesome things we do not expect.
And Christ is coming near with great power and glory,
and with tenderness.

Mark 13:33,35, 37

Isa. 64:3

Mark 13:26, 28

**BLESSING

P May God strengthen us to the end;
Christ draw near to our very gates;
and the Holy Spirit awaken our spirits; until, with eager longing,
we greet the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

1 Cor. 1:8

Mark 13:29

Mark 13:26

CLOSING HYMN

"The King Shall Come"

ELW #260

(Alt. tune: ELW #632)

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

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