

Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 14, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... God is rich in mercy, loves you greatly, makes you alive through Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5) and welcomes you to this time of worship and fellowship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read the words to the hymns silently.

Please read aloud the **bold texts**.

Please read the italicized texts silently in your heart as your own words.

OPENING HYMN “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” (vs. 1, 2 & 4) ELW #335

INTRODUCTION

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today’s gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

OPENING PRAYER

P Lord, as we gather here today, remind us that you have shared with us your most precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to model our lives after his messages of compassion and service to you and to all your world. In Christ’s Name, we offer this prayer. Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C *have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion*

forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C *O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

L ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

C ²*Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,*

L ³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

C ¹⁷*Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.*

L ¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

C ¹⁹*Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.*

- L ²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.
 C ²¹*Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.*
 L ²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.
 C *Glory to you, O Lord.*

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today’s first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

- P The Gospel of our Lord.
 C *Praise to you, O Christ.*

HYMN “God Loved the World” (vs. 1, 2 & 5) ELW #323
 (Alt. tune: ELW #434)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (vs. 1-3) ELW #779

APOSTLES’ CREED page 105

- 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P Hear us, O God.

C *Your mercy is great.*

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ, be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious Lord - you have given us grace upon grace, you have freed us from the
bondage of sin and granted us the strength and the guidance of your Holy Spirit.
All that we have and all that we are is the work of your hands. Receive, we pray,
these offerings, and use them and us as you will. We ask it in Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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 We have received the immeasurable riches of God's grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
Go forth to share this gift with others.

Eph. 2:7

BLESSING

P You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Christ, the Life of All the Living" (vs. 1 & 3) ELW #339

DISMISSAL

P Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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