

# *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*



*September 24, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.*

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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*Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church...* Family of Christ, grace and peace be with you as we gather to worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN** "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" (vs. 1-2, 5) ELW #669

## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

## OPENING PRAYER

**C Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**C You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter to your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep mire and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## \*\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**P God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving,  
Grace beyond our ability to earn it.**

**C God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ;  
therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people. 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 **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## LESSON: Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

## PSALM 145:1-8

L <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

C <sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

L <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

C <sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

L <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

C <sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

L <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

C <sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## LESSON: Philippians 1:21-30

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

## GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Children's Choir*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW #765

## ENROLLMENT INTO CONFIRMATION

## APOSTLES' CREED

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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 Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers are concluded with these words:*

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #186

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**C Generous God, you have blessed us with so much. Take these gifts and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. 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 Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,  
and stand firm in the Spirit.**

*Phil 1:27*

**\*\*BLESSING**

**P May the generous grace of Christ attend you, the astounding love of God find you, and the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you, everywhere and always. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

“O Zion, Haste”

ELW #668

**DISMISSAL**

**P Go in peace. Christ is with you.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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