

First Sunday of Advent



December 1, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Happy New Year! Today the church calendar begins anew with Advent as we celebrate Jesus' coming in the past, present and future.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ELW #254
(Alt. tune: ELW #461)

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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CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P The days are shorter, and darkness comes early to our lives.
C **Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.**
P Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God's mercy and love.
C **Lord, we seek your presence among us.**
P Look closely! God is making us ready.
C **Brighten our Spirits this day, and help us to receive your Good News.
Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

HYMN “Blessed Be the God of Israel” (vs. 1-2) ELW #250
(Alt. tune: ELW #282)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C **we confess that we have sinned.**
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

C **we confess that we have sinned.**
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst,

C **we confess that we have sinned.**
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

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 **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PSALM 25:1-10

L ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

L ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C ⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

L ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

L ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C ⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

L ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

C ¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

ELW #241
(Alt. tune: ELW #820)

APOSTLES' CREED

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 Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

OFFERING

JINGLE OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186

OFFERING PRAYER

P Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

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