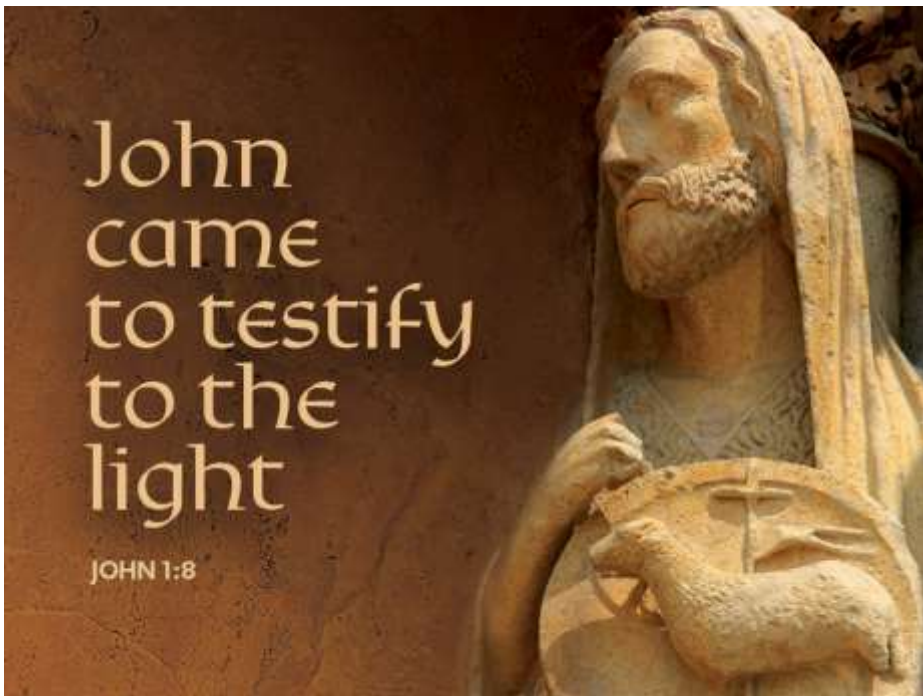


# *Third Sunday of Advent*



*December 10, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.*

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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*Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church...* Welcome to what some branches of the Christian church call *Gaudete*, or Rejoice, Sunday. May we find joy in worshipping God and anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

**ADVENT HYMN** "We Light the Advent Candles" (vs. 1 & 4) *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 4:** *Three candles now are gleaming  
and show us the true way.  
Rejoice, the Baptist cries out:  
your Lord has come today!  
Rejoice, the Baptist cries out:  
your Lord has come today!*

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## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**P** Come, continue on the journey. It is not far now.

**C** **But where are we going?**

**P** God is welcoming us to God's kingdom.

**C** **Can we see it from here?**

**P** We see it in the faces of those who know of God's love.

**C** **Will that same love be given to us?**

**P** It already has been given, and his name is Jesus!  
He is God's beloved Son, our Light and Hope.

**C** **Quickly, let us journey toward his light. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR ADVENT

**C** The voice of one comes crying out in the wilderness...  
prepare the way of the Lord.  
A messenger prepares the way, transforming us like the refiner's fire...  
calling us to account.  
For the prophets of old have spoken,  
announcing the breaking open of the dawn...  
guiding our feet in the way of peace.  
Merciful God forgive us...  
Forgive us when we are quick to point the finger at someone else.  
Forgive us when we put our heads down and ignore the cries of injustice.  
Forgive us when we ignore the needs of others and think only of our own  
needs. Forgive us when we fail to love and respect one another.  
Merciful God...  
forgive us, heal us, encourage us and speak through us,  
that we may be transformed, and the offerings of our hands and our hearts  
may prepare the way for the Christ child to be welcomed among us in  
peace. Amen.

## HYMN

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

ELW #239

## 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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

## PSALM 126

**L** <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

**C** <sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

**L** <sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

**C** <sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

**L** <sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**C** <sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

#### **LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**P** The Holy Gospel, according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

#### **GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the “light of the world.” John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

#### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

#### **SERMON**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

ELW #241

(Alt. tune: ELW #820)

#### **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** 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.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**                    “What Child Is This”                    (vs. 1 & 3)    ELW #296

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. Receive these tokens of our blessings and cause them to work in this world to make light shine in the darkness. We offer these gifts in Jesus’ name.

**C** **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

page 154

**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.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	(vs. 1-4)	ELW #257
	“Away in a Manger”		ELW #277
	“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”		ELW #286

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

## BLESSING

P May the light of this Advent season shine in your hearts, on your path, and beckon you to God’s Love and service to the world. Go in peace. May the God of peace go with you.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Joy to the World” ELW #267

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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