

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



October 22, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship... “To the church of Kviteseid Lutheran in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace” (see 1 Thessalonians 1:1).

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!” ELW #413

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

In today’s first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P We belong to God.

C **God’s stamp is on our lives.**

P God’s love and compassion is built into us.

C **God’s mercy and hope flow through us.**

P Let’s celebrate the powerful presence of God.

C **Let’s rejoice in all the opportunities God gives us to serve. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C **Patient God, we are so easily distracted from what you would have us be and what you would have us do. We allow ourselves to be claimed by the angry and hurting world as though we bore a stamp reflecting the hostility. You remind us that, from the beginning, your love has been available to us. Forgive us when we so easily turn toward ignorance and greed as ways of living in the world. Heal our wounded souls. Challenge us to be your people — not owned by false promises of instant wealth and status — but strengthened and empowered to be those who bring hope through our words and actions. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

P In our words, smiles, compassionate living we bear the image of our God. In our willingness to serve the voiceless and alienated, the lost and alone, God’s presence abides with us. Rejoice! You are called “Beloved of God” and given God’s own stamp in your lives. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ELW #834

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 **Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LESSON: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

PSALM 96:1-13

L ¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

C ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

L ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

C ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

L ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

C ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

L ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

C ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

L ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

C ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity."**

L ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

C ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

L ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW #705

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 God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #686

OFFERING PRAYER

C **Gracious God, accept and bless these wonderful gifts that they may be used to serve you by serving others in need. 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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

C **God of power and might, help us to recognize the imprint of your love and mercy in our lives. Open our hearts to that love that we may grow in our faith and be strengthened in our witness to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

P Go from this place with the confidence that you are God's beloved children.

C **We go, to labor in love with all we meet.**

P Go out into the world with steadfast hope and joyous trust.

C **We go, remembering our faithful God who goes before us.**

P In God's love, the Spirit's power, and the peace of Christ, go now in peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“You Servants of God”

ELW #825

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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