

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Were we traveling with Joseph and Mary, we'd be nearing Bethlehem now — a relief, especially for the one great with child. So we ponder the solemnity and wonder of this day. Welcome to worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN “We Light the Advent Candles” (vs. 1 & 5) *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 5: *Four candles burning brightly
announce that Christ has come.
Prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room!
Prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room!*

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CALL TO WORSHIP

P We are all part of a story, or a number of stories.

C **And so we come to remember the stories.**

P As children we listened to stories read by adults.

C **As adults we tell stories to each other to help find meaning in the world.**

P In this place we are reminded how our stories intersect with The Story of God's love for us.

C **And we trust that the story will push us to be people of love.**

HYMN “The First Noel” (vs. 1-3) ELW #300

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

“The Letters of Christmas”

Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (Congregation join in on verses 2 & 3) ELW #290

HYMN “Joy to the World” (vs. 1, 2, & 4) ELW #267

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.**

FIRST READING: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

SECOND READING: Luke 1:39-45

We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

PSALM: Luke 1:46-55

L ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C ⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

L ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

C ⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

L ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

C ⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

L ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

C ⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

L ⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW #283

OFFERING

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

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of Love, in this season of Advent, this time of waiting, we offer to you our money, our time, our energy. Accept what we offer. Use these offerings to shine the light of your peace in the dark places of our world.

C **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.**

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.**

BLESSING

P Here today we have heard a story.

C **Maybe a new one, maybe one we heard before.**

P Now we go out to live as people who are a part of The Story of faith,

C **Sharing the love of the season with those we meet.**

P Go out trusting that God The Source of the Story, Christ the Storyteller, and The Spirit who inspires us to live our own stories is with you as the story of faith and life continues to unfold.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW #270

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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