

Third Sunday of Advent



December 15, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Isaiah declares: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (12:3, NRSV). May we be nourished by God’s gift of salvation as we worship.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN “We Light the Advent Candles” (vs. 1 & 4) *printed*

CALL TO WORSHIP

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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P As the days get shorter and the nights get longer,

C **We light candles, we turn on colored lights,
We remind ourselves that the Light of the World is about to be born.**

P In this season of preparation,

C **We step away from the busy-ness**

P and we gather our hearts for worship

C **seeking to be reminded of the hope to be found in the midst of the season.**

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

see next page



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



PART ONE “A Christmas Story Poem”

Introduction

On a night long ago, in a place far away
A baby was born on the first Christmas Day.
His name was Jesus, and He was a king
And he came to the world to change everything.
This morning we'll look at the story and see
The baby that came 'cuz He loved you and me.
We'll hear about angels and wisemen and sheep.
And the manger in which baby Jesus could sleep.
It's a story that's crazy, amazing, and true.
It's the story about how much God loves you.
So let's listen careful as we tell the story.
And let's worship Jesus, the Great King of Glory.

Our Journey to Bethlehem

Mary and Joseph were tired and sore;
They had traveled all day and could travel no more!
They finally arrived in Bethlehem town
Only to find there was nowhere to lie down.
The hotels were all full, there were no more beds
For Joseph or Mary to lay down their heads.
Exhausted from walking, and ready for sleep,
They would even be willing to sleep with the sheep.
They asked a kind man if they could sleep in his hay
In the barn with the animals, where the cows lay.
The man showed them a spot and moved the cows
over,
For a pillow he gave them a pile of clover.
And Mary and Joseph sat down with a sigh.
It wasn't the best, but it was warm and dry.
And they slept, for a while, under stars and the moon
Perhaps unaware, that Christ's birth would be soon.

Jesus is Born

While the whole town was sleeping, with stars shining
bright,
Mary's baby was born on that first Christmas night.
Born in a barn! With the horses and hay!
If you were a king, would you come that way?
The King of Creation had come to the earth
And a Bethlehem barn was the place of his birth?!

I think I'd choose a palace, but God's ways are
stranger.
And God's Son was born and laid down in a manger.
Yes, Jesus was born and wrapped up in some cloth,
And for his first bed, he was placed in a trough!

The Angels

Outside of the town, 'round a fire so bright
Some shepherds were watching their sheep in the
night.
The night had been quiet and silent and still.
The sheep had been starting to doze off until
When all of a sudden a radiant light
Surprised all the shepherds and gave them a fright!
An angel appeared and said not to fear
For the Savior was born – The Messiah was here!
He'd be wrapped up in cloth and placed in a manger.
Go see for yourself – He's a total game changer!
He brings joy to the world. He's good news for men.
The angel said this to the shepherds and then...
A thousand more angels appeared in the sky!
They sang praises to God in the heavens so high!
What a huge celebration of joy to the earth
As the shepherds were told of their dear Savior's
birth.

The Shepherds

When the angels had left them alone with their sheep
There was no way those shepherds would fall back
asleep!
“Let's go to the town,” the shepherds all said,
“And see if a manger is really the bed
Of this new little king who was born here tonight.”
So the shepherds all ran to the town with delight.
They arrived in the village and looked all around –
It didn't take long 'till the baby was found.
It was just as the angel had told them before,
They found Mary & Joseph and Jesus – what's more...
Jesus lay in a manger – The story was true!
The Savior had come – so what did they do?
Those shepherds went out and they told the whole
town.
They told them how God, as a baby, came down

Was born in that barn – and yet was the King
The Savior from Heaven as the angels did sing.

The Wisemen

It wasn't long after some wise men came by.
They had followed a star that appeared in the sky.
They knew that a King had been born for the Jews
So they stopped at the palace of Herod for clues.
"Where is the new King?" They wanted to know.
Bethlehem was the answer – and so they did go.
They followed the star 'till it came to the place
Where they found little Jesus. Oh, the joy on their face!
They offered him gifts – Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh.
Mary couldn't believe what was happen'ing to her.
For her little baby was clearly a King
He was worshiped, adored, and caused angels to sing.
He was Someone so special, in fact, was divine!
He would surely change her life, change your life and mine.
For small baby Jesus would grow to man,
Would live without sin, and would follow God's plan.
He would die on a cross but would rise three days later
To trade all my sin for something much greater.

Conclusion

And that's the true story of how Christ was born.
We have so much to celebrate on this Christmas morn.
For God loved the world so much that He gave
His only dear Son, for each person to save.
By trusting in Jesus, our sins are forgiven
We have life eternal, the promise of heaven.
And all because he was born on that night.
Jesus Christ came to make all things right.

HYMN "Joy to the World" ELW #267

PART TWO "Shadow Nativity"

"A Hallelujah Christmas" by Cloverton

Our Sunday school kids ages 3 through our high school group recorded this song in the library after only a few times practicing. The song will be playing during the Shadow Nativity.

Verse 1

I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath, I'm singing Hallelujah

Chorus

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Verse 2

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place, for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh, Hallelujah

Chorus

Verse 3

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
"You'll find Him in a manger bed"
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah

Chorus

Verse 4

A star shone bright, up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wise-men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah

Chorus

Verse 5

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah

Chorus

SONG "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
(Congregation join in on verses 2 & 3) ELW #290



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.**

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

JINGLE 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 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.**

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 The candles of hope, peace and joy shine brightly in our worship space.

C **The promise of hope, peace and joy shine brightly in our hearts.**

P Go from this time of worship to carry hope, peace and joy to all you meet.

C **We go out with hearts made lighter by the promise of a baby to be born.
With dreams of a world that will be changed, with souls singing praises for
the God who is active around, within, among us.**

P Go with God, who promises new life and new hope.

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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Sunday School Christmas Program: "A Christmas Story Poem" published by Dave Trenholm. Song "A Hallelujah Christmas" by the band Cloverton.

Kids of all Ages - Enjoy coloring the Christmas picture!



MERRY
Christmas