

# *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*



*June 16, 2024 | 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...* Happy Father's Day to all who share a caring relationship with a dad or dad-figure — even as we gather to worship the most loving Father of all, our God of infinite goodness.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN** “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (vs. 1, 3-5) ELW #533

## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

## \*\*CALL TO WORSHIP

**P** The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, *Mark 4:31–32*  
which is the smallest of seeds on earth;

**C** **it grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs,  
and the birds of the air make nests in its shade.**

**P** Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## \*\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** God will not count our trespasses against us, *2 Cor. 5:19–20*  
longing instead for us to be reconciled.  
We come before God, then, in honesty, humility, and hope.

**C** **Gracious God,  
we so often miss your kingdom at work among us.  
Captivated by power and prestige,  
we overlook the mustard seeds you have planted all around.** *Mark 4:31*

**Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work.  
Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes—  
fostering divisions when you have called us  
to a ministry of reconciliation;** *2 Cor. 5:18*

**beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs;  
building walls to keep people out when your branches  
offer generous nests.** *Mark 4:32*

**Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray,  
so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: 2 Cor. 5:17–18, 20  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!

**C We are ambassadors for Christ,  
for God has reconciled us through him! Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** "For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW #679

**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 O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into  
yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to  
those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**LESSON: 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13**

*Saul, anointed by the prophet Samuel as the first king of Israel, displeases the Lord.  
The Lord therefore sends Samuel to Bethlehem, where he anoints David, the  
youngest of the sons of Jesse, to succeed Saul as king.*

**PSALM 20**

L <sup>1</sup>May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble,  
the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

**C <sup>2</sup>send you help from the sanctuary and strengthen you out of Zion;**

L <sup>3</sup>may the LORD remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice;

**C <sup>4</sup>grant you your heart's desire and prosper all your plans.**

L <sup>5</sup>We will shout for joy at your victory and unfurl our banners  
in the name of our God; may the LORD grant all your requests.

**C <sup>6</sup>Now I know that the LORD gives victory to the anointed one;  
God will answer out of the holy heaven,  
gaining victory with a strong right hand.**

L <sup>7</sup>Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we rely on the name of the LORD our God.

**C** <sup>8</sup>**They collapse and fall down, but we will arise and stand upright.**

**L** <sup>9</sup>**O LORD, give victory to the king and answer us when we call.**

**LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17**

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

**P** The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word"

ELW #663

(Alt. tune: ELW #685)

**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** Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers are concluded with these words:*

P Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid,  
through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW #884

### **\*\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, *Mark 4:26-34*  
that they may be a sign of our commitment to your kingdom  
and a pledge of our love for you and your world.  
Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents,  
that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth.

C **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

### **\*\*CHARGE**

P No longer regard yourselves or others  
from a human point of view *2 Cor. 5:16-17*  
but from God's view:  
Everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!  
Go forth from this place knowing  
that you are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

### **\*\* BLESSING**

P May God bless you with new life, Christ tend you in grace,  
and the Holy Spirit guide your steps, as you walk by faith *2 Cor. 5:7*  
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW #547

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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