

Third Sunday in Lent



March 23, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Isaiah announced God's invitation: "Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink ... it's all free!" (55:1, NLT). Are you thirsty for good news, peace, hope, love? Christ is the water of life. Welcome to worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" ELW #324

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER

Luke 13

- P** Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being,
and give us so many second chances in life.
- C** **May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you from our sinful ways.**
- P** Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways,
that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
- C** **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways
and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. *Isa. 55:6-7*
Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.
- C** **Holy God,** *Isa. 55:1-2, 8; Luke 13:8*
we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you.
You set before us a rich feast of blessing,
but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.
You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world,
but we indulge our own desires.
Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.
Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.
Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life.
Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are,
in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.
We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

P God's love is sure and steadfast, *Isa. 55:3; 1 Cor. 10:3, 13*
always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

C Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him. With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" ELW #445

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

We, who are too much like the barren fig tree, pray that with Christ's saving love, we respond to God's call to fruitfulness.

P Let us pray.

C Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

**C God of signs and wonders, who speaks the world into being, speak again your words of life and death.
May your word be ever near us, on our lips, and in our heart.
Transform us as we hear your word this day,
that we may respond with faithful praise. Amen.**

LESSON: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

PSALM 63:1-8

L ¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you,
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**C ²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

L ³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

C ⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

L ⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

C ⁶**when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

L ⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

C ⁸**My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

LESSON: 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, 9-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

C **O God, you have spoken to us today through this word of faith.
Embolden our spirits by your Spirit,
that your words may be made manifest in all that we say
and in all that we do to bring your kingdom on earth.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

ELW #624

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 God, in your mercy,
C receive our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love,
in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.
C And also with you.

OFFERING

JINGLE OFFERING

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

****OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you
have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your
providence and care. Send us—not only our offerings, but our very selves—to
console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your
children everywhere at the one Table you have set; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
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.**

****BENEDICTION**

P May the mercy of God ground us,
The love of Christ take root in us,
And the Holy Spirit grow in us,
That we may be ready for the coming of the kingdom.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW #618

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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