

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*



*December 22, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.*

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church...* Like Mary and Elizabeth, we share the anticipation of what God is birthing — through Jesus, and in all our lives always.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #283

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## 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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## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*Today’s first lesson from Micah is a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem. From the gospel of Luke, we hear the announcement to Mary, her visit to Elizabeth and her magnificent song of praise.*

## OPENING PRAYER

**C** **Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

**HYMN** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1 & 3) ELW #279

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of mercy,

C **we confess that we have sinned.  
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.  
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P God of might,

C **we confess that we have sinned.  
We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P God in our midst,

C **we confess that we have sinned.  
We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C **Amen.**

## 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 **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and  
might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and  
serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## SECOND 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.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

## GOSPEL: 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.*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

## PSALM: Luke 1:46-55

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

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

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

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

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

C <sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

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

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

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

HYMN "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" (vs. 1 & 3) ELW #251  
(Alt. tune: ELW #282)

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Savior of the Nations, Come" (vs. 1-4) ELW #263  
(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** 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.**

#### **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P** The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us.  
The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

#### **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.**

#### **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** Go with the love of God,  
who extends mercy from generation to generation.  
Go with the illumination of the Holy Spirit,  
who prepares us for the coming of our Lord.  
Go with the peace of the Christ child,  
who comes to partner with us to bring the kingdom that will never end.

**C** **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Christ is near.

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

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