

# *Second Sunday of Advent*



*December 3, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.*

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Shepherding God, thank you for feeding your flock with love, gathering us lambs in your arms and carrying us close to your heart. (See Isaiah 40:11.)*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN “We Light the Advent Candles” (vs. 1 & 3) *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 3:** *We light the second candle,  
and hear God’s holy word.  
It tells us, cling to Jesus,  
prepare to meet your Lord.  
It tells us, cling to Jesus,  
prepare to meet your Lord.*

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## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

P Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness.

C **Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.**

P Something new was about to happen.

C **God would visit God’s people in a new way!**

P Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

C **Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us. Amen.**

## \*\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P God does not want anyone to perish, *2 Pet. 3:9b*  
but rather for all to come to repentance.

Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God’s salvation is at hand. *Ps. 85:9*

**C Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness.  
We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace.  
We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love.  
Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, Ps. 85:2  
that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**P** Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven,  
for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God. Amen. Ps. 85:2, 8-9

**HYMN** "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW #264

### **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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his  
coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11**

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people  
in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares  
for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is  
the word of God.*

### **PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13**

**L** <sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**C** <sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

**L** <sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace  
to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**C** <sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

**L** <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**C** <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**L** <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

**C** <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

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

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

ELW #249

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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**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 Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C **Amen.**

#### **SHARING THE PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

#### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P God our provider,  
by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.  
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.  
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **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.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS	“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”	ELW #244
	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	ELW #254 (Alt. tune: ELW #461)
	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	(vs. 1-4) ELW #257

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God,  
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory  
for all people to see together.  
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim  
your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

## \*\*CHARGE

P The day of the Lord is coming;  
therefore strive to live in peace, for God’s salvation is near. *2 Pet. 3:13–14*

## BLESSING

P God is bringing light to our darkness. We are called to go into the world,  
confident in God’s loving presence, to serve others in need.  
Go, bringing hope and peace to this darkened world. Go in God’s love.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Hark, the Glad Sound!” ELW #239

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

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