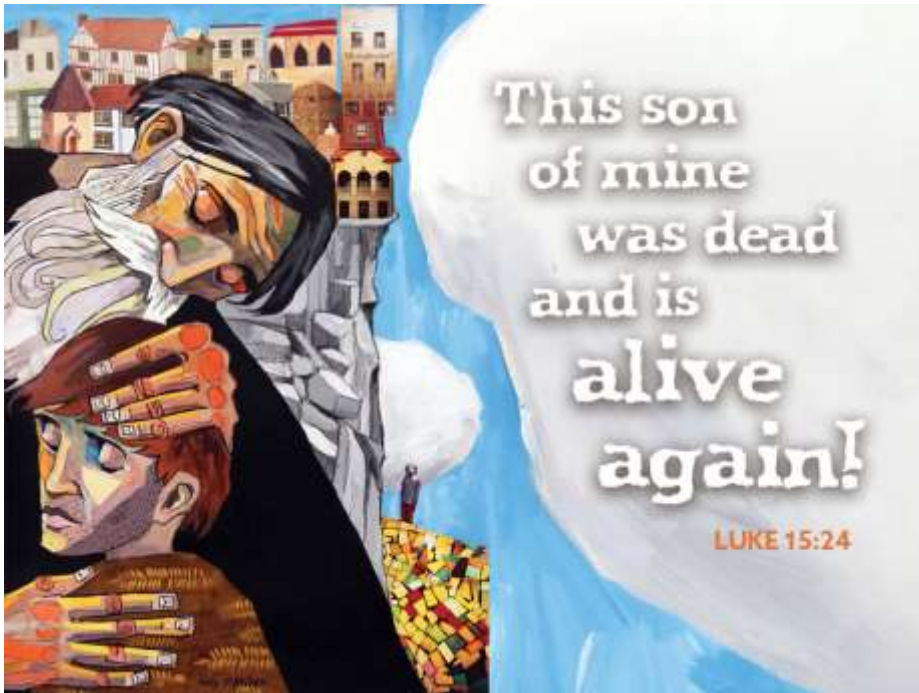


# *Fourth Sunday in Lent*



*March 30, 2025 | 9:00 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...** Like a loving father welcoming a prodigal child home and inviting the other to join the feast, God welcomes us all. Let us celebrate such amazing grace.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN**                    “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”                    ELW #807

## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!*

## OPENING PRAYER

**C        How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. 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.**                    *2 Corinthians 13:13*

**C        And also with you.**

## DIALOG

**P        The word is near you,**

**C        on your lips and in your heart.**

**P        If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,**

**C        and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**P        Faith comes from what is heard,**

**C        and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

*Romans 10*

**SCRIPTURE SONG                    “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”**

**ELW # 767**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The prayer likens us to the prodigal son, who is welcomed home, embraced with mercy, newly clothed, and fed with God’s love.*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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.**

### PSALM 32

L <sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C <sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

L <sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

C <sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

L <sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

C <sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

L <sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C <sup>8</sup>**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

L <sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

C <sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

L <sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### SERMON

#### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Luke 15*

C **Loving God, when we wander to distant places,  
you watch the road to greet us when we finally come home.  
Whenever we are far from you,  
remind us that we are your beloved children, the longing of your heart,  
and give us the strength and courage to return to your open arms.  
When we have sinned against heaven and before you,  
forgive us, for we are coming home! Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW #779

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal  
of the promised Holy Spirit.**

*Ephesians 1:13-14*

### APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.**

**P** Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C** **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

*Jude 20*

**P** Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C** **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Jude 21*

**P** If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C** **Everything old has passed away;  
behold, everything has become new!**

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

#### **\*\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ,  
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**C** **Merciful God,  
we confess that we have strayed from your ways.  
Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.  
You gave us the earth for our home,  
but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.  
You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions.  
You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,  
but we break your law and forsake your love.  
Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.  
Draw our wandering hearts back to you  
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.  
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

*Luke 15:11b–24*

**P** As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,  
so God embraces all who return in true repentance.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Luke 15:20*

**C** **Amen.**

#### **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P** Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another,  
agree with one another, live in peace.

*2 Corinthians 13:11*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

## **OFFERING**

### **JINGLE OFFERING**

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

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

**P**      O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ.

**C**      **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.**

### **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**      The God of reconciliation bless you,  
         the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you,  
         and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you this day and forevermore.

**C**      **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**      “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”      ELW #608

### **DISMISSAL**

**P**      Go in peace. God is welcoming you.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

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