

# *Fourth Sunday in Lent*



*March 10, 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...** “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16). May you sense that divine love through this time of worship.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW #335

### INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*Today we hear the fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent. It's the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

### OPENING PRAYER

P Lord, as we gather here today, remind us that you have shared with us your most precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to model our lives after his messages of compassion and service to you and to all your world. In Christ's Name, we offer this prayer. Amen.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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 **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.**

#### LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

#### PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

L <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

C <sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

L <sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

C <sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

L <sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

C <sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

L <sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

L <sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**C**      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

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

# SERMON

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

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## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

**P** Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers are concluded with these words:*

**P** Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #186

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**C** **Gracious Lord - you have given us grace upon grace. All that we have and all that we are is the work of your hands. Receive, we pray, these offerings, and use them and us as you will. We ask it in Jesus' name. 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**

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	“Lamb of God”	page 154
	“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”	ELW #338
	“Just As I Am, without One Plea”	ELW #592

# **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **\*\*CHARGE**

**P** We have received the immeasurable riches of God’s grace *Eph. 2:7*  
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Go forth to share this gift with others.

## **\*\*BLESSING**

**P** May God shine upon you, Christ fill you with true wisdom and strength,  
and the Holy Spirit guide you into all faithfulness, now and forever. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** “Christ, the Life of All the Living” ELW #339

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

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

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