

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



January 29, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... We gather in Jesus' name to answer God's call: "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with [our] God" (Micah 6:8).

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

ELW #669

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

OPENING PRAYER

P Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this time of worship be genuine and pleasing to you. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

C **Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world.
We have not spoken truth with our hearts.
We have said and done hurtful things to our friends.
We have forgotten our true identity,
wandering into ways that are not yours.
We have lost the path of true worship,
focusing on form and words rather than deeds.
We have forgotten what true discipleship is.
And because of this, you have a quarrel with us.
Forgive us and help us live into becoming
the people you have created and called us to be:
people of justice and love and truth
and humility, and yes, even foolishness.
May we be fools for Christ,
embracing our true identity,
even in the face of the world's scorn and derision.**

P God has called us and blesses us
when we live God's ways and not the world's.
God's love embraces us
even when we fall short of what God desires
for our lives and actions.
Know that the God of blessing
loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness.
And in so knowing, may our lives and souls
be transformed.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "O God of Mercy, God of Light" (vs. 1-4) ELW #714

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 **Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

LESSON: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

PSALM 15

L ¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

C ²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

L ³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

C ⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

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 We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW #884

**OFFERING PRAYER

P We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. *Matt. 5:1–12*
May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation.

C **Amen.**

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.**

**CHARGE

P In the spirit of the beatitudes,
commit to leading a life of blessing,
living in compassion, simplicity, and peace.

Benediction

Micah 6, Psalm 15, Matthew 5

P Those who live lives pleasing to God shall not be moved.
Go now to embrace the kingdom values — values of love, justice, and truth.
Go now with God’s blessing, to live those values through the power
of our challenging, faithful, loving, empowering God. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” ELW #551

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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