

# *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*



*July 30, 2023 | 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...* “[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39, NIV). What better reason to worship together!

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

“Gather Us In”

ELW #532

## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

P The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

**C It is a small seed, but has some surprises in store for us.**

P When it is grown, it is a very large shrub.

**C Even the birds can find places in its branches for their nests.**

P God's transforming love begins in small ways to enter our hearts.

**C Lord, plant those amazing seeds of transforming love in us that they may grow into deeds of service to others in your name. 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 You are the treasured people of the LORD,

**C a people holy to the LORD our God.**

P Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.**

P One does not live by bread alone,

**C but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

*Deut. 26, 11, 8*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## LESSON: 1 Kings 3:5-12

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

## PSALM 119:129-136

L <sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C <sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

L <sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C <sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**

L <sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C <sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

L <sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C <sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

## LESSON: Romans 8:26-39

*These words celebrate the depth of God’s actions for us. Through Christ’s death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God’s love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Be Thou My Vision"

ELW #793

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

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.**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

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*

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.  
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

P Gracious God,  
C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**  
P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
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

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

#### OFFERING PRAYER

P Lord, receive our gifts and our lives. Cause all of these blessings to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us for safekeeping. In Christ’s Name, we pray.  
C **Amen.**

#### 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 Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
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.**

**BLESSING**

**P** Go forth with joy, celebrating all the many ways for us to serve our Lord. Give us courage, hope, peace and love that we might bear these gifts to others. Go in peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing ”

ELW #547

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

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