

Third Sunday after Pentecost

The birds of the air
make nests in its shade

MARK 4:32



June 13, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Welcome to worship, as we pray: Speak your word to us, Lord, as we are able to hear it. (from Mark 4:33)

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (vs. 1, 3, 4 & 5) ELW #533

INTRODUCTION

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We’d expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It’s not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody’s looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

**CALL TO WORSHIP

P Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar: *Mark 4:27, 31–32*
C **The kingdom of God is growing.** *Ezek. 17:22–24b*
P While we sleep and rise night and day:
C **The kingdom of God is growing.**
P The low are brought high; the high are brought low:
C **The kingdom of God is growing,
its large branches are home to all kinds of people!**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P God will not count our trespasses against us, *2 Cor. 5:19–20*
longing instead for us to be reconciled.
We come before God, then, in honesty, humility, and hope.
C **Gracious God,
we so often miss your kingdom at work among us.
Captivated by power and prestige,
we overlook the mustard seeds you have planted all around. *Mark 4:31*
Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work.
Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes—
fostering divisions when you have called us
to a ministry of reconciliation; *2 Cor. 5:18*
beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs;
building walls to keep people out when your branches
offer generous nests. *Mark 4:32***

**Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray,
so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

2 Cor. 5:17–18, 20

**C We are ambassadors for Christ,
for God has reconciled us through him! Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“How Great Thou Art”

ELW #856

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, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into
yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to
those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LESSON: Ezekiel 17:22-24

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose
someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This
tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15

L ¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O
Most High;

C ²to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;

L ³on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

**C ⁴For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

L ¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**C ¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the
courts of our God;**

L ¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

**C ¹⁵that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there
is no injustice.**

LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 4th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word”

ELW #663

(Alt. tune: ELW # 685)

APOSTLES' CREED

page 105

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 Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ, be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

**OFFERING PRAYER

P Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day,
that they may be a sign of our commitment to your kingdom
and a pledge of our love for you and your world.
Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents,
that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth.

Mark 4:26-34

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

page 112

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 No longer regard yourselves or others from a
human point of view
but from God's view:
Everything old has passed away; see, everything
has become new!
Go forth from this place knowing that you are a
new creation in Christ Jesus.

2 Cor. 5:16-17

**BLESSING

P May God bless you with new life,
Christ tend you in grace,
and the Holy Spirit guide your steps,
as you walk by faith
now and forever. Amen.

2 Cor. 5:7

CLOSING HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW #547

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

** Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.

Except as noted, the liturgy is reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012988.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012988.