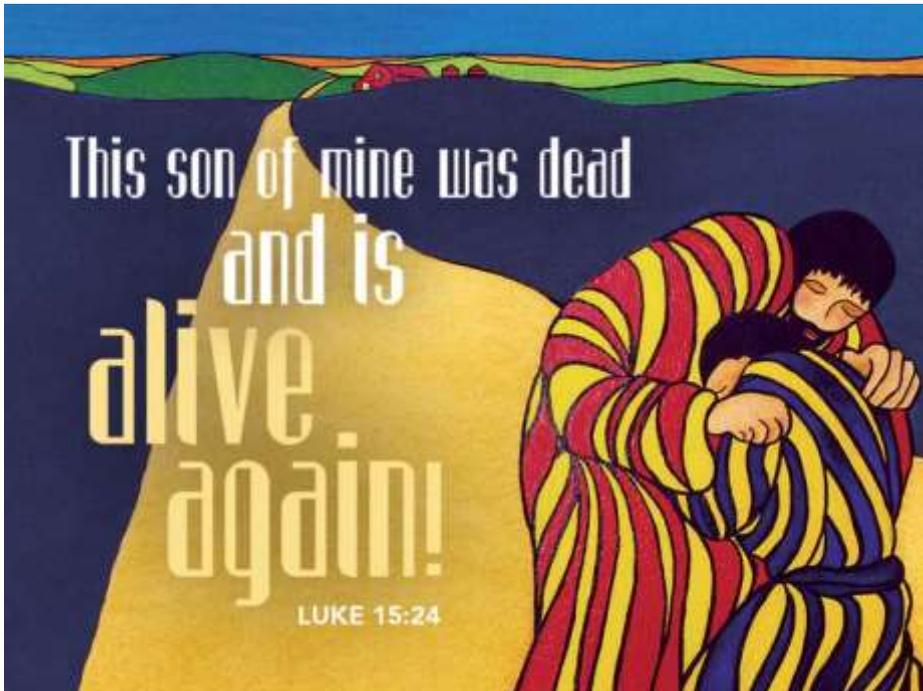


Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 27, 2022 | 10:30 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Wherever we have been, whatever we have done, our all-loving heavenly Father welcomes us into his arms. Let us worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTRODUCTION

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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

P From darkness and despair, from being lost and lonely, God calls us home.

C **Even though we have been selfish and let God down, we are still called beloved.**

P Remember the eternal love of God which has been poured out for you.

C **Our hearts rejoice at the wondrous ways in which God loves and forgives us.**

P Remember that in all your ways you can trust in God’s compassion.

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

LENTEN HYMN “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

ELW # 767

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Psalm 32

C **O God, teach us the way that we should go; counsel us in the ways of life. We wait upon your teaching and counsel, for we are lost without it. Amen.**

PSALM 32

L ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

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

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

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

L ⁵Then 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 ⁶**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 ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

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

L ⁹Do 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 ¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

L ¹¹Be 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 15th 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

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. Amen.

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 Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need,
for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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 Forgiven and Beloved Ones of God, go now in peace, sharing with others the Good News of God's love. Help those in need. Give and receive from each other the joy of peace.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. God is welcoming you.

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.