

# *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*



*February 12, 2023 | 9:00 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...* Paul tells us, “We are co-workers in God's service” (1 Corinthians 3:9, NIV). So we gather to be fed for a new week of ministry.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

ELW #582

## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*In today's reading from Deuteronomy, we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. In today's gospel reading, Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.*

## OPENING PRAYER

*Deuteronomy 30, Matthew 5*

**C Holy Spirit, guide us as we walk in faith, and guard us against the powers that would draw us away from your love. Help us live according to your commandments, that we might live long in the land you have prepared for us. Prompt us to seek you with our whole heart and guide us to walk in your ways, that we may carry out the vows of the covenant we share. May our words and deeds bring life and faith to others, as we hold fast to the gift of faith. Be near us each and every day, and bless us with your light, that our days may be filled with grace. Amen.**

## \*\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Our God is a loving God. *Deut. 30:19–20*  
Therefore, let us confess our sins that we may choose life and live.

**C Holy God, we confess that we bow down before other gods; *Deut. 30:15–20*  
we have turned our hearts away from you.  
Our worship of work and devotion to consumerism  
disorders our love of you and each other.  
Forgive us, God, and mend what is broken,  
that we may be one with you. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**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, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the LORD. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.*

**PSALM 119:1-8**

L <sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

C <sup>2</sup>**Happy are they who observe your decrees  
and seek you with all their hearts,**

L <sup>3</sup>who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

C <sup>4</sup>**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

L <sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

C <sup>6</sup>**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**

L <sup>7</sup>I will thank you with a true heart,  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

C <sup>8</sup>**I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

**LESSON: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

*Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-24, 38-48**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.*

**P** The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

ELW #772

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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**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** 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** Christ asks that we be reconciled to one another. The love of Christ reaches out to friend and stranger, touching each life with blessing. Share the peace and forgiveness of Christ with one another.

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**



## Charge

P Go forth to walk in God's ways.

C **May our ways be blameless.**

P Hold fast to God in all you do.

C **Our hearts belong to God.**

P May the love of God be yours.

C **God's blessings rest upon us.**

## BLESSING

P As we journey out into the world, may each of us walk in the light of God's ways, striving to be blameless and just. May our hearts be vessels of God's love and may the Lord bless us. Hold fast. Do not be led astray, and may the love of God be yours this day and forevermore. Go now in peace.

C **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW #638

## DISMISSAL

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

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