

# What Does It Mean to be ELCA Lutheran?

Lenten Service Series 2025



## Theology of the Cross

Wednesday April 9, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.

Kviteseid Lutheran Church

Pastor Kristine Isder



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Big Bend Lutheran Church  
Kviteseid Lutheran Church  
Milan, Minnesota

## Welcome and Announcements

**Hymn:** “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW #335

### Greeting

P The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P To you, O God,

**C all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**C Amen.**

P By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**C Amen.**

### Church Trivia: The Lectionary

#### Psalm 40:1-4, 9-11, 17

L <sup>1</sup>I waited patiently upon the LORD, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

C <sup>2</sup>The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

L <sup>3</sup>The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

C **<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who trust in the LORD!  
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

L <sup>9</sup>I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

C **<sup>10</sup>I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have  
spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not  
concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great  
assembly.**

L <sup>11</sup>You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

C **<sup>17</sup>As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought  
for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my  
God.**

**Hymn:** “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”                      vs 1-4    ELW #609

### **Prayer**

C **Mysterious One, in Jesus you redeem us and invite all people  
to a place in your glory. Draw us closer to you, and in so doing,  
draw us closer to one another, that we may be strengthened to  
follow in the way of Jesus’ cross and resurrection. In Jesus’  
name we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:** Matthew 16:21-27a  
Matthew 17:22-23  
Matthew 20:17-19

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-29

### **Message**

**Hymn:** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”                      ELW #803

## Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

P Lord, in your mercy,      **C Hear our prayer.**

**Mission Minute** – ELCA Good Gifts

## Offering and Jingle Offering

**Offertory Response:** “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

verses 1 and 2

ELW #686

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blestest us, to thee our first fruits give.**

## Offering Prayer

**Scripture Readings:** John 14:2-3

Revelation 21:1-6a

## Reflection

## Lord's Prayer

## Blessing

P The Creator who fashions us together with all things, the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community, the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints, one God, ✠ bless you now and always.

**C Amen.**

**Hymn:** “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death”

ELW #452

## Dismissal

P Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

---

**God's Global Barnyard.** An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. A gift can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>