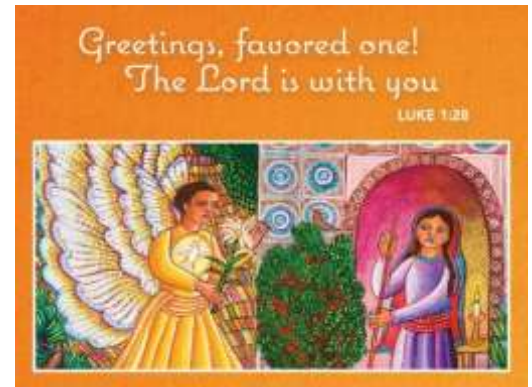


Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

Kviteseid and Big Bend Lutheran Churches

Pastor Kristine Isder



ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... With Mary we sing: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47, NIV).

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read the words to the hymns silently.

Please read aloud the **bold texts**.

Please read the italicized texts silently in your heart as your own words.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN “We Light the Advent Candles” (vs. 1 & 5) *printed*

Verse 1: *We light the Advent candles
against the winter night
to welcome our Lord Jesus,
who is the world’s true light;
to welcome our Lord Jesus,
who is the world’s true light.*

Verse 5: *Four candles burning brightly
announce that Christ has come.
Prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room!
Prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room!*

INTRODUCTION

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David’s throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel’s greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, “Count me in.” We who know that Jesus is called king still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, “Count us in.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Welcome! God has blessed our gathering.

C *We come again on this journey, following the light.*

P God’s light shines for us today, bringing peace and comfort.

C *May we, like Mary, respond to God’s presence and love, with confident joy. Amen.*

** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sins to the One
whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

C *Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out
our ability to hear your will for us.
We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.*

*Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins,
that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.*

P Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting. Amen.

HYMN "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" (vs. 1 & 3) ELW #251
(Alt. tune: ELW #282)

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 Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SECOND LESSON: Luke 1:39-45

We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

PSALM: Luke 1:46-55

L ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

*C ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:*

L ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

C ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

L ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

C ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

L ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

C ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

L ⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever."

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1 & 3) ELW #279

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

**P The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us.
The peace of Christ be with you always.**

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**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 Do not be afraid, for God is with you *Luke 1:28, 30*
and will strengthen you in your journey
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! *Rom. 16:27*

**** Blessing**

P Magnify the Lord and rejoice, *Luke 1:37, 46b*
for nothing is impossible with God.
And the blessing of God, who creates, redeems, and restores,
be with you now and always. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (vs. 1-2) ELW #290

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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