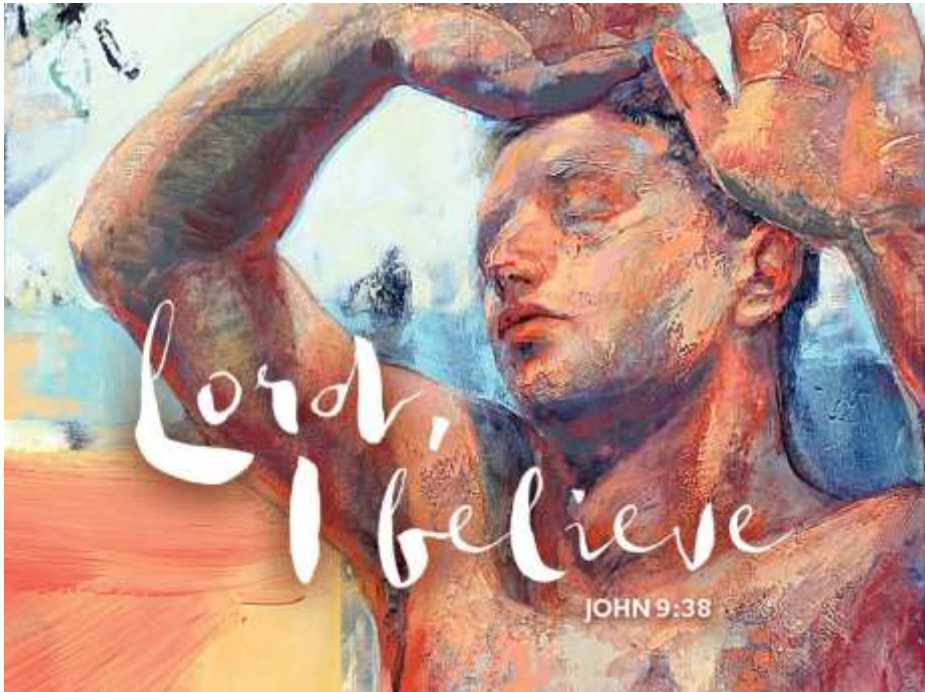


# *Fourth Sunday in Lent*



*March 19, 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...* May God's Word help us each see something or someone in a new way today.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

ELW #339

## INTRODUCTION

*The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. God calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

## OPENING PRAYER

*Ephesians 5, John 9*

**C** Gracious God, who created us in God's own image,  
we are grateful for all that you have done for us,  
for all that you are doing in us,  
and for all that you will do through us.

**P** Open our eyes to see your presence among us,  
moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places.  
Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—  
ways that will change us and challenge us  
to become the people you created us to be.

**C** Grant us the power and the courage  
to come out of the darkness  
and into the light of Jesus Christ,  
that we may serve you by serving others.  
We love you with all our heart, soul, mind,  
and strength. Amen.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*1 Samuel 16, Ephesians 5, John 9*

**C** Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain,  
we would rather shut our eyes and be blind  
than see things as they really are.  
Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world,  
and give us the strength to bring your light  
to those who walk in darkness.  
Help us see others as you see them,  
and forgive us when we do not trust you enough  
to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.

**Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God,  
and lead us in the footsteps  
of the Light of the World,  
who reveals your glory in his life,  
his teachings, and his love.  
In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Psalm 23*

**P** Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness  
and to guide us through our lives.  
Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace.  
The goodness and mercy of God  
are given to us each and every day of our lives.  
God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love,  
and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us.  
Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you.  
We believe! God help our unbelief! Amen.

**HYMN**

**“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”**

(vs. 1-2) ELW #520

**SUFFRAGES**

**P** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
**C** have mercy on us.

**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.**

**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.**

#### SUFFRAGES

P O Lord, I cry to you for help.

C **In the morning my prayer comes before you.**

P Let my mouth be full of your praise

C **and your glory all the day long.**

P Every day will I bless you,

C **and praise your name forever and ever.**

P Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,

C **O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.**

P Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C **and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

P You redeem my life from the grave,

C **and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.**

P Lord, hear my prayer,

C **and let my cry come before you.**

HYMN “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (vs. 1-3) ELW #779

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### PSALM 23

L <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C <sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

- L <sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- C <sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- L <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- C <sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW #768

**SHARING THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord, be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #186

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord.

C **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 lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

## CHARGE

*Psalm 23, Ephesians 5*

**P** Go into the world, carrying the light of Christ into the darkness!

**C** **We go, with hearts full and eyes open!**

**P** Receive God's love and care, and share that love and care with others!

**C** **We go, with eyes reflecting God's light and hands open to share it!**

**P** May you walk in the light of Christ all the days of your life!

**C** **We will follow Christ wherever he leads us! Amen!**

## BLESSING

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" (vs. 1, 3-5) ELW #452

## DISMISSAL

**P** Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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