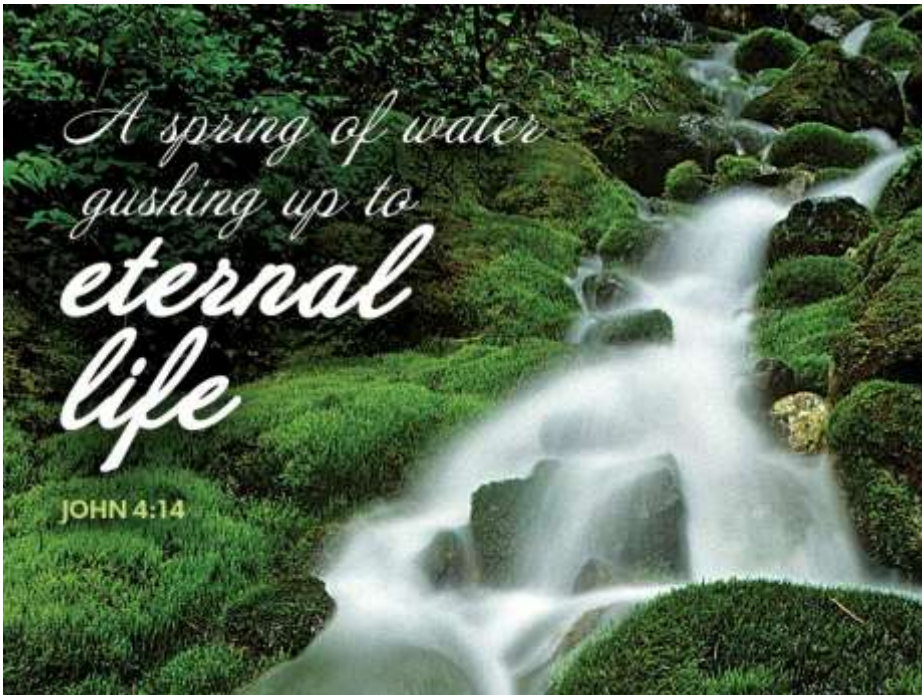


# *Third Sunday in Lent*



*March 12, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.*

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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*Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church...* We gather at the well of worship, where Jesus, our Living Water, quenches our thirst for love, life, hope, peace.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN**                    “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”                    ELW #335

## INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

*In today’s gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God’s grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God’s mercy and forgiveness.*

## \*\*CALL TO WORSHIP

**P**        O come, let us worship and bow down;                    *Ps. 95:6; John 4:23*

**C**        **let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.**

**P**        The hour is coming and is now here.

**C**        **In spirit and truth, let us worship God.**

## \*\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P**        God’s love has been poured into our hearts                    *Rom. 5:5*  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Trusting in God’s overflowing grace, let us confess our sin.

**C**        **Lord, you know who we are.**                    *John 4:5–24*

**You know everything we have done.**

**We thirst for things that will never satisfy us.**

**We commit ourselves to things that will never last.**

**We worship things that will never bring salvation.**

**Still, you offer us the gift of living water.**

**Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, and give us this living water,**

**so that we may never thirst again. Amen.**

**P**        This is the good news of God’s grace:                    *Rom. 5:8–10*

Though we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Though we were enemies of God, God loved us.

Once we were lost and dead—now Christ has become our life and salvation.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**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 **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

## PSALM 95

L <sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

C <sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

L <sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

C <sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

L <sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

C <sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

L <sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

C <sup>8</sup>**"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

L <sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test,  
though they had seen my works.

C <sup>10</sup>**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

L <sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

**LESSON: Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

**GOSPEL VERSE**

*(sung)*

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***Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.***

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: John 4:5-30, 39-42**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

**P** The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

ELW #658

**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 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.**

### SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

### OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186

### \*\*OFFERING PRAYER

P O Lord, you are our God; *Ps. 95:7; John 4:34*  
we are the people of your pasture, the sheep of your hand.  
As you have fed us by your mercy, may it be our daily bread to do your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### 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.**

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	“Lamb of God”	page 154
	“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”	ELW #338
	“Let Us Break Bread Together”	ELW #471
	“We Come to the Hungry Feast”	ELW #479

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs  
of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C **Amen.**

**\*\*CHARGE**

P The hour is coming and is now here. *John 4:23*  
Go forth to worship the Lord your God  
in spirit and in truth, in all that you say and do.

**\*\*BLESSING**

P May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, *John 4:14, Rom. 5:5*  
springing up like living water, fill your heart, and flow through your life.

C **Amen.**

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

**DISMISSAL**

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

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