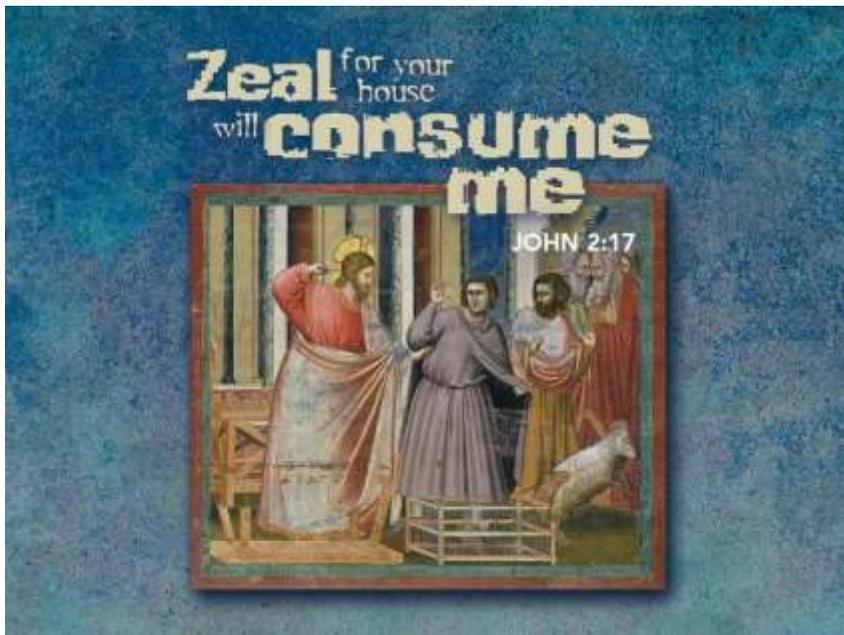


Third Sunday in Lent



March 7, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Welcome to worship, whether in person or online! May zeal for God's house consume us, as it did Jesus (John 2:17), but remember that the Holy Spirit lives in every human heart.

INTRODUCTION

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

PRELUDE

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.

OPENING HYMN "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #517

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Despite all that God has taught us, we still act unwisely; we are still weak.
In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace.
We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

Silence for reflection.

C *Merciful God, clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin,
and save us from willfully ignoring your way.
Let your commandments rule and guide us.
Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; Exod. 20:4–5
keep us faithful.*

*Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships— Exod. 20:12, 14
with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors.
Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness,
rather than words that belittle or destroy.
Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness. Exod. 20:12–17*

*Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power,
for you are the God who made us, led us out slavery, Exod. 20:2, 8–11
and has brought us into the community of faith.*

*Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

P Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another. 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.**

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C *Lord, have mercy.*

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C *Lord, have mercy.*

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C *Lord, have mercy.*

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C *Lord, have mercy.*

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C *Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

PSALM 19

L ¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

- C ²*One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.*
- L ³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
- C ⁴*their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.*
- L ⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- C ⁶*It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.*
- L ⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- C ⁸*The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.*
- L ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- C ¹⁰*More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.*
- L ¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- C ¹²*Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.*
- L ¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great
offense.
- C ¹⁴*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in
your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.*

LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd chapter.

C *Glory to you, O Lord.*

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C *Praise to you, O Christ.*

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 Hear us, O God.

C *Your mercy is great.*

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you,
O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ, be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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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COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

**BLESSING

P May God shine upon you, Christ fill you with true wisdom and strength, and the Holy Spirit guide you into all faithfulness, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" (vs. 1 & 4) ELW #705

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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