

Third Sunday of Advent



December 11, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. “Rejoice in the Lord always,” says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

ELW #239

INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today’s worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God’s reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ’s advent among us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 35

P In the midst of the barren land,

C **flowers burst into bloom.**

P In the midst of the dry desert,

C **streams of water gush forth.**

P In the midst of sorrow and sighing,

C **joy and gladness dance together.**

P We shall see the glory of God!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN

“We Light the Advent Candles” (vs. 1 & 4) *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 4: *Three candles now are gleaming and show us the true way. Rejoice, the Baptist cries out: your Lord has come today! Rejoice, the Baptist cries out: your Lord has come today!*

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OPENING PRAYER

Isaiah 35

P God of Glory, we rejoice in the good news of your promises. Come into our parched world and shower us with your gushing, abundant water of life. Enter into our brokenness, and renew us with the strength of your love. Be born anew in our hearts and in our world. Come, Jesus; come.

C Amen.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let the desert rejoice,
and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us.
Let us confess our sin. *Isa. 35:1, 4*

C **God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness,
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.
We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
We are lifeless when we ought to dance
and speechless when we ought to sing.** *Isa. 35:1-10*
**Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

P Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. *Isa. 35:10*
Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

C **Thanks be to God. 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 **Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith
in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Prepare the Royal Highway” (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #264

LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

PSALM 146:5-10

- L ⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- C ⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
- L ⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
- C ⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are
bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**
- L ⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- C ¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion,
throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

LESSON: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

- P The Gospel of our Lord.
- C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

ELW #241
(Alt. tune: ELW #820)

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 God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW #885
 (Alt. tune: ELW #282)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below;
 praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

****OFFERING PRAYER**

**P Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth—
 Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to
 further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the
 world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray.**

Ps. 146:5-10

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

COMMUNION HYMNS	“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”	ELW #244
	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1, 2, 5 & 7)	ELW #257
	“Away in a Manger”	ELW #277
	“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”	ELW #286

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

Matthew 11

P May the love of God fill you until you overflow with joy.
May the coming of the Christ Child free you to live in an upside-down world.
May the Holy Spirit empower you to work for the reign of God on earth.
At Christmas and throughout the year, may you be inspired to share the good
news of God's vision of peace and love.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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