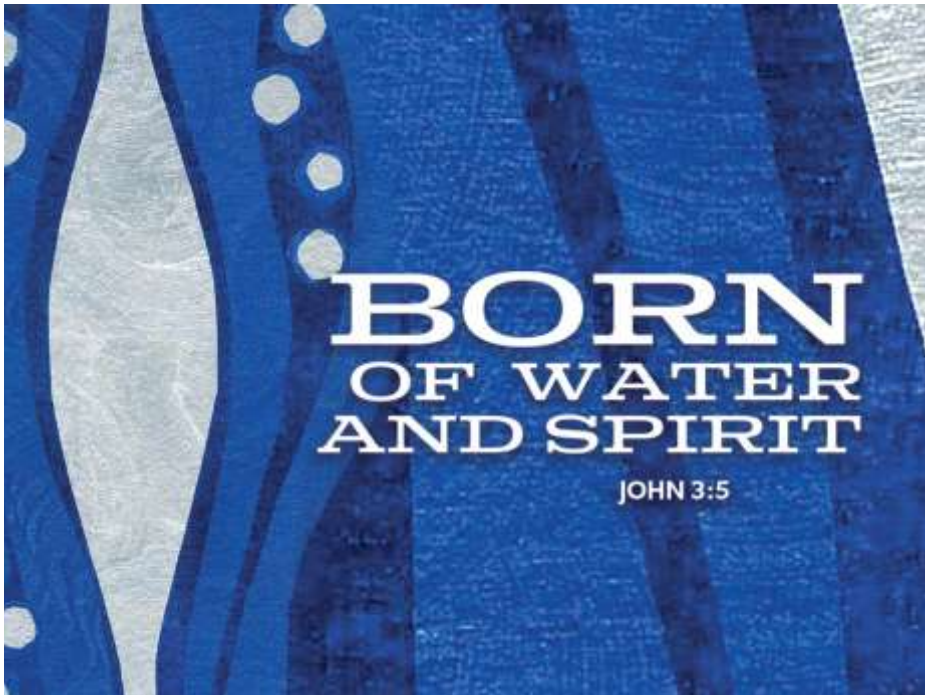


Second Sunday in Lent



March 5, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... No matter our circumstances, “[our] help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2, NRSV). We gather to worship our loving Creator.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW #660

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today’s gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God’s love for all the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Genesis 12, Psalm 121, John 3

P Come, all who need help!

C **Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.**

P Come, all who desire blessing!

C **Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.**

P Come, all who long for salvation!

C **Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Rom. 4:4-5

P We cannot earn God’s grace or favor.
It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given.
Confident in God’s love for us, even when we are ungodly,
we confess our sins in faith.

C **Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace.
You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not.
We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.
We justify our actions and words,
though we know they are not what you require.
We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,
preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to be born again into the life of Christ,
trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

P God is for us and not against us! *John 3:16–17*
For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world
not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Word of God, Come Down on Earth” (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #510

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 **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a

God’s call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

PSALM 121

L ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

C ²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

L ³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

C ⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

L ⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

C ⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

L ⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

C ⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

LESSON: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God’s promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

GOSPEL VERSE

(sung)

page 151

*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 3rd chapter.

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

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject.
Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN

“For God So Loved the World” (sing twice) *printed*

For God so loved the world
He gave His only Son
To die on Calvary’s tree,
From sin to set me free;
Some day He’s coming back,
What glory that will be!
Wonderful His love to me.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

ELW #767

APOSTLES’ CREED

page 105

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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #186

**OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray.

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

page 154

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	“Lamb of God”	page 154
	“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”	ELW #759
	“Abide with Me”	ELW #629
	“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”	ELW #338

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.

BLESSING

Psalm 121, John 3

P As you leave this place,
lift up your eyes to the Lord!
The One who sent Jesus Christ,
as salvation for all the world,
will never desert you.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in,
from this time on, and forevermore.
Go now in peace, with God’s blessing.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” ELW #324

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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