

First Sunday of Advent



November 28, 2021 | 10:30 a.m.

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Happy Advent! We direct our hearts and our worship now toward the coming of Jesus at Christmas and at the end of time.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW #254
(Alt. tune: ELW #461)

INTRODUCTION

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN “We Light the Advent Candles” *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 2: *The first one will remind us
that Christ will soon return.
We light it in the darkness
and watch it gleam and burn.
We light it in the darkness
and watch it gleam and burn.*

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CHILDREN’S SERMON

CALL TO WORSHIP

P The days are shorter, and darkness comes early to our lives.

C **Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.**

P Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God’s mercy and love.

C **Lord, we seek your presence among us.**

P Look closely! God is making us ready.

C **Brighten our Spirits this day, and help us to receive your Good News.
Amen.**

READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

HYMN

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

(vs. 1-2) ELW #250
(Alt. tune: ELW #282)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God for whom we wait,

C **in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

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 **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“The King Shall Come”

(vs. 1, 4-5) ELW #260

(Alt. tune: ELW #632)

PSALM 25:1-10

L ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

L ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C ⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

L ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

L ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C ⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

L ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

C ¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

ELW #241

(Alt. tune: ELW #820)

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 God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ, be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

(vs. 1-2) ELW #686

OFFERING PRAYER

P Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give.
Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship,
and our material resources, wherever they are needed.

C Amen.

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.**

BLESSING

P The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (vs. 1, 3-4) ELW #244

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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