

Ash Wednesday
and
First Sunday in Lent



February 26, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.

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

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... On Ash Wednesday we mark the cross on our foreheads with ashes. Ashes remind us that we are creatures. Ashes remind us that we are sinners. We are called to repentance. We are forgiven and raised to life and freedom.

*See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man
will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes.*

- Matthew 20:18 -

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C **To see the depths of his love.**

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C **To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C **We walk with Jesus to the City of Jerusalem.**

P Because Passover is coming.

C **And the Son of Man will be crucified.**

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C **I shall follow where you guide!**

OPENING HYMN

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

ELW #802

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.
2. Let us also live with Jesus, he has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken, Jesus, you are now our head,
We are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly, living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me.

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN

P Magnificent and merciful Father, because I walk into dark and dangerous places, hear me as I confess my sins.

C **My feet take me to places of compromise and sinful ambition.**

P My heart lingers in places of lust and lies.

C **My words take me to places of anger, rage and hatred.**

P My ears delight in going to places of gossip, deceit and ridicule.

C **My mind takes me to places of selfishness and pride.**

P My eyes lead me to places of envy and greed.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)

P Hear the good news. Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane and Golgotha—for you. Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C **I shall follow where you guide.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Please come forward. Ashes will be placed on your forehead or, if you prefer, in the palm of your open hand, with the words of God to Adam:

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

(Children are invited to come forward with their parents.)

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Almighty and everlasting God, send forth your Holy Spirit that this Lent we may ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

ELW #326

(Alt. tune: ELW #805)

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another.

PSALM: Psalm 32

L ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C ²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

L ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

C ⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

L ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

C ⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

L ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C ⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

L ⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

C ¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

L ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SECOND READING: Exodus 12:1, 3, 5-7, 11b-13

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:1-4

MESSAGE

HYMN "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

ELW #592

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186

OFFERING PRAYER

P Lord, from the abundance of your grace, your word has provided all that we
need. All that we have is yours. Receive the offering of our hands and the
gratitude of our hearts. In the name of our Savior we pray.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 Jesus invites us to walk with him to Jerusalem, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C Let us ever walk with Jesus!

CLOSING HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW #618

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C Thanks be to God.

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