



**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

***The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church***  
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**Worship helpers**  
**Ministers of East Koshkonong** ~ All the people of God  
**Presider** ~ Pastor Eric Hanson  
**Organist** ~ Judy Rusch  
**Assisting Minister** ~ Vicki Schuh  
**Acolyte** ~ Morgan Rockney  
**Lector** ~  
**Greeter** ~ Kurt & Barb Klemp  
**Ushers** ~ Ron & Nancy Knapwurst  
**Offering Counters** ~ Jean Lehr & Cheryl Nuenthel  
**Church Lock Up** ~ Carolyn Lien

## SERMON ONE WITH CHILDREN

**GATHERING HYMN** Where Charity and Love Prevail **ELW 359**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### Prayer of the Day

**A:** O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

**L:** Word of God, word of life.

**C:** Thanks be to God

## Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

*LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)*

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's <sup>1</sup>holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O my soul,  
and forget not <sup>1</sup>all God's benefits—**
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives <sup>1</sup>all your sins  
and heals all <sup>1</sup>your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life <sup>1</sup>from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast <sup>1</sup>love and mercy; R**
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires <sup>1</sup>with good things  
so that your youth is renewed <sup>1</sup>like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide <sup>1</sup>vindication  
and justice for all who <sup>1</sup>are oppressed.**
- <sup>7</sup>You made known your <sup>1</sup>ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- <sup>1</sup>dren of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compas- <sup>1</sup>sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup>steadfast love; R**
- <sup>9</sup>you will not al- <sup>1</sup>ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- <sup>1</sup>ger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according <sup>1</sup>to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to <sup>1</sup>our iniquities.**
- <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- <sup>1</sup>bove the earth,

so great is your steadfast love for <sup>1</sup> those who fear you.  
<sup>12</sup> **As far as the east is <sup>1</sup> from the west,**  
**so far have you removed our transgres- <sup>1</sup> sions from us.**  
<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion <sup>1</sup> for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD. **R**

## **Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**L:** Word of God, word of life.

**C:** Thanks be to God

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

**P:** the holy gospel according to Matthew

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

<sup>21</sup> Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who

wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON TWO

**HYMN OF THE DAY** I Come with Joy

**ELW 482**

## CREED

**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 Pilate, 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 Intercession

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy (*especially*). **Kathy, Sue, Denise, Cherie, Sara, Gary, Jeff, Huldah, Carroll, Barb, Lindsay, Betsy, Jim, Chris, Marge, Robert, Andy, and Coral.** Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world (*like Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, whom we commemorate today*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace Noisy Offering for Sunday School Mission Project**

### **Offering Prayer**

God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **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**

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, eat what is good.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The God of glory,  
✚ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** Go, My Children, with My Blessing ELW  
543

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Calendar

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

9:00am Worship

**Monday September 18, 2023**

6:00pm Council Meeting

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

9:00am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

5:30pm Worship

6:30 Confirmation Orientation

**Sunday, September 24, 2023**

9:00am Worship

10:00am Coffee Fellowship

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### Wish List

Hearty Soup  
Corned Beef Hash  
Spaghettios, Ravioli, other canned meals and pastas  
Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.)  
Ketchup  
Mayonnaise  
Coffee  
Cookies  
Cake/Brownie Mix  
Dish Soap  
Laundry Soap

