



*Sunday, December 8, 2024*

*The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church  
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East Koshkonong Lutheran Church Facebook!*

Ministers of East Koshkonong ~ All the people of God  
Presider ~ Pastor Eric Hanson  
Organist ~ Judy Rusch  
Assisting Minister ~ Carolyn Lien  
Acolyte ~ Tess Marchant  
Lector ~ Peggy Luther  
Greeter ~ Kurt and Barb Klemp  
Ushers ~ Buddy and Beverly Lien  
Offering Counters ~ Joy Graffin and Gloria Fruit

Gathering Hymn      Prepare the Royal Highway      ELW #264

Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**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.**

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. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only  
Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world  
knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Choir Special Music Amid the Cold of Winter

### First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Luke 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,

<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

### Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly

praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Gospel

**P:** The holy gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

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

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

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

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry ELW #249

## 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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering *especially* Judy, Mary Lou, Brandan, Lisa, Landon, Terry, Ed, Dennis, Kathy, Cherie, Gary, Barb, Lindsay, Betsy, Jim, Chris, Robert, Andy, Michelle, Karen, Monica, and Gwendolyn. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence.

Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### Sharing of the Peace

#### Noisy Offering

#### Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### 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, 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

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

### Prayer after Communion

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen.**

### Blessing

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.**

Sending Song Comfort, Comfort Now My People ELW #256

### Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Calendar

### **Sunday, December 8, 2024**

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, December 9, 2024**

6:30 p.m. Education meeting

### **Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study

### **Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

5:30 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

### **Thursday, December 12, 2024**

8:00 a.m. Pin & Sew

### **Sunday, December 15, 2024**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School Program

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

### **Announcements**

A Blue Christmas service will be December 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Church building.

Christmas Eve worship schedule will be a morning service at 10 AM in the Upper Church building, and then 3 and 6 PM services in the Lower Church building.

There will be no Wednesday night worship services December 25 or January 1!