



***Sunday, May 18. 2025***

***The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church  
454 East Church Rd., Cambridge, WI 53523  
[www.eastkoshkonong.org](http://www.eastkoshkonong.org)***

***Church Office: Phone 608-423-3017  
Email: [eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com)***

***Pastor Eric Hanson: 815-543-5077  
Email: [eric.hanson88@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.hanson88@yahoo.com)***

***FACEBOOK PAGE – Please "Like" us on  
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 ~ Mia Frodel**

**Lector ~ Bobbie Rawinski**

**Greeter ~ Karen Hayes**

**Ushers ~ Curt & Linda Hanson**

**Offering Counters ~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl**

Sermon One with Children

Gathering Hymn      Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love  
ELW 708

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Prayer of the Day

**A:** O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

First Reading Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading Revelation 21:1-6

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Gospel

P: The holy gospel according to John 13:31-35

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

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

### Sermon Two Q & A

Hymn of the Day Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW 359

### 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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness *especially* Jackie, Judy, Mary Lou, Brandan, Lisa, Landon, Terry, Ed, Kathy, Cherie, Gary, Barb, Lindsay, Betsy, Jim, Chris, Robert, Michelle, Karen, Monica, Gwendolyn, Dennis, Daryl and the families of Joan and Lisa. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to

your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

### Sharing of the Peace

### Noisy Offering

### Offering Prayer

P: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

**C: 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

P: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life a wounded and weary world.

**C: Amen.**

Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## **Calendar**

### **Sunday, May 18, 2025**

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

### **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

6:00 p.m. Council meeting

### **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

5:30 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

### **Sunday, May 25, 2025**

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

## **Announcements**

Let us know if you are a college student or know of one that will graduate this spring. We will honor high school and college graduates during the service on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Question & Answer**

### **Question 1. The Psalmists use selah often what does it mean?**

I. The Bible isn't just one book, it's many books that have been canonized into our scriptures.

A) There are different styles of books in the bible.

B) Psalms are considered part of the "Old Testament poetry" section of the bible.

C) Specifically, the psalms are lyrics to songs about God.

i. Psalmists use different musical cues for congregations singing them.

ii. "Selah" is one of those musical cues; often

interpreted as meaning to give some pause in the singing for reflecting on what's been said.

**Question 2. Our creed says he will come again to judge the quick and the dead but how does that square with us saying when someone dies they are with God?**

I. Creeds were composed shortly after the time of Jesus's Earthly ministry to offer concise confessions of who God has been revealed to be in Jesus Christ.

A) There are three Universal Christian Creeds that denominations around the world accept and confess; the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

II. Scripture tells us Jesus will come again

A) In Paul's letters, "For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

B) In the gospels Jesus said, "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory." (Matthew 26:30).

III. The line from the Creeds "he will come again to judge the living and the dead"

A) "Christians wait in eager hope for the final fulfilment...of God's offer of new life, which is given to our world and history in the resurrection of Christ. The coming again...means that he will come triumphantly in the power and authority of God to judge the world. As Christians we are united in our conviction that we all have to appear before the *judgement of Christ*. The proclamation of Christ as the judge needs to be balanced by the recognition that the Christ is the advocate who pleads on our behalf...and is himself the sacrifice for our sins. The temptation of Christians is often to set themselves up in judgement of others, or to desire a divine judge who will judge according to *their* will...the good news is that we are not called upon to judge. Judgement is God's prerogative and will take place according to God's will...we face our judgement trusting in God's merciful and forgiving love, revealed to us in the Christ".

B) God promises to save us in scripture

i. “For by **grace** you have been **saved through faith**, and this is not your own doing; it is **the gift of God.**” (Ephesians 2:8)

ii. “**For God so loved the world** that he gave his only Son, **so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.** 17 ‘Indeed, **God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**” (John 3:16-17)

### **Question 3: “Why does Jesus speak against divorce in the bible? What does this mean for people who have been divorced today?”**

#### **I. There are many different ways to interpret the bible**

A) Some Christians read the bible as rules we must live by.

i. Why some denominations take a strong stance again divorce in any circumstances.

B) ELCA Lutherans interpret the bible through the good news of Jesus Christ.

i. Something Luther taught when he and his followers were trying to figure out how they should regard some of the odd instructions in scripture

a. “It is not enough simply to look and see whether this is God’s word...It is all God’s word. But...I must pay attention and know to whom God’s word is addressed...whether it fits for us.”

b. The good news of Jesus Christ helps us read, interpret, and understand all of scripture.

C) ELCA Lutherans also use history to help us understand scripture.

i. What was going on in the world at the time these words were written?

a) How might that help us understand the meaning?

#### **II. Divorce in the bible.**

A) Matthew 19:3-9 and Mark 10:2-9.

i. Good news of Jesus Christ teaches God

cares about the well-being of creation.

ii. At this point in history women were considered “property” of men.

a) A marriage was exchanging the woman from being the “property” of her father to then becoming the “property” of her husband; women had no say in this exchange.

b) Divorced women were some of the most vulnerable people in the world during this time; no money, no way to make a living, no rights, ect.

iii. Interpreting these scriptures in light of that history and the gospel of Jesus Christ

a) “Some Pharisees” (a group of religious leaders who were exclusively male) “came to **test**” (key word here) “Jesus”. Asking, ‘Is it lawful **for a man** to divorce **his wife**?’ (notice the way their question is phrased)

b) Jesus answers them; “what God has joined together, let no one separate”.

c) The pharisees respond, “Why then did

Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?”

d) Jesus responds ‘It was **because you were so hard-hearted** that Moses allowed divorce, but at the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, **whoever divorces his wife** except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.’ (Jesus specifically singles out men divorcing their wives here, he says nothing about women divorcing their husbands.)

iv. We don’t interpret this passage as a flat-out decree against all forms of divorce; rather we understand this as Jesus’s way of rejecting certain behaviors around divorce in the first century that were dehumanizing toward women.

a) The ELCA affirms that sometimes divorce is a healthy option for the well-being of those involved in extremely unhealthy relationships, i.e. when there is abuse, unfaithfulness, etc.

World Council of Churches, *Confessing the One Faith*. (Eugene: WIPF & Stock, 2010) 57-58.

Martin Luther, *How Christians Should Regard Moses* (1525).