



*Good Friday*  
*April 3, 2026*

**The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church**  
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**FACEBOOK PAGE** – Please “Like” us on  
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church Facebook!  
**[www.youtube.com/@eastkoshkononglutheranchur2937](http://www.youtube.com/@eastkoshkononglutheranchur2937)**

**Ministers of East Koshkonong ~ All the people of God**  
**Presider ~ Pastor Eric Hanson**  
**Organist ~ Judy Rusch**

Welcome & Opening

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.  
We gather on this sacred *evening* to reflect on the passion  
and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for  
whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to  
be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death  
on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane*

A reading from Matthew.

Jesus went with [his disciples] to a place called  
Gethsemane; and he said to [them], “Sit here while I go  
over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two  
sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.  
Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death;  
remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little  
farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My  
Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not  
what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the dis-  
ciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So,  
could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake  
and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the  
spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn      **Ah, Holy Jesus (verse 1)**      **ELW #349**

Let us Pray; **Lord, grant us your strength and wisdom,  
that we may seek to follow your will in all things.  
Amen.**

*Silence As the first candle is extinguished*

*The Second Station: Jesus is Arrested*

A reading from Mark.

Immediately, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

“The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn    **Ah, Holy Jesus (verse 2)**            **ELW #349**  
Let us Pray, **Lord, grant us the courage of our  
convictions that our lives may faithfully reflect the  
good news you bring. Amen.**

*Silence As the Second candle is extinguished*

*The Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin*

A reading from Luke.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought [Jesus] to their council. They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us.” He replied, “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not an-

swer.

But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

All of them asked, “Are you, then, the Son of God?”

He said to them, “You say that I am.” Then they said,

“What further testimony do we need?

We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.

**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn

**Ah ,Holy Jesus (verse 3)**

**ELW #349**

Let us Pray, **Lord, grant us your sense of righteousness that we may never cease to work to bring about the justice of the kingdom that you promised. Amen.**

*Silence As the Third candle is extinguished*

*The Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter*

A reading from Matthew.

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard.

A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”

When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!”

At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.

**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn     **Ah, Holy Jesus (verse 4)**                     **ELW #349**

Let us Pray, **Lord, grant us the gift of honesty that we may not fear to speak the truth even when difficult. Amen.**

*Silence As the Fourth candle is extinguished*

*The Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate*

A reading from Mark.

The chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; [and] handed [Jesus] over to be crucified.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn     **Ah, Holy Jesus (verse 5)**                     **ELW #349**

Let us Pray, **Lord, grant us discernment that we may see as you see, not as the world sees. Amen.**

*Silence As the Fifth candle is extinguished*

*The Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns*

A reading from John.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn **Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs 1) ELW #351**

Let us Pray, **Lord, grant us patience in times of suffering that we may offer our lives as a sacrifice of praise. Amen.**

*Silence As the Sixth candle is extinguished*

*The Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross*

A reading from John.

When the chief priests and the police saw [Jesus], they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn **Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs 2) ELW #351**

Let us Pray, **Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day. Amen.**

*Silence As the Seventh candle is extinguished*

*The Eighth Station:*

*Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross*

A reading from Mark.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn **Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs 3) ELW #351**

Let us pray, **Lord, grant us willing spirits that we may be your instruments on earth. Amen.**

*Silence As the Eighth candle is extinguished*

*The Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem*

A reading from Luke.

A great number of the people followed [Jesus], and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.'

Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn **Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs 4) ELW#351**

Let us pray, **Lord, grant us gentle spirits that we may comfort those who mourn. amen.**

*Silence As the Ninth candle is extinguished*

*The Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified*

A reading from Luke.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.

**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn      **Were You There (vs 1) #353**

Let us pray, **Lord, grant us merciful hearts that we may bring your reconciliation and forgiveness to all. Amen.**

*Silence As the Tenth candle is extinguished*

*The Eleventh Station:*

*Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief*

A reading from Luke.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.

**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn     **Were You There (vs 2) #353**

Let us pray, **Lord, grant us perseverance that we may never stop seeking you. Amen.**

*Silence As the Eleventh candle is extinguished*

*The Twelfth Station:  
Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple*

A reading from John.

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn     **Were You There (vs 3)     #353**

Let us pray, **Lord, grant us constancy that we may be willing to stand by those in need. Amen.**

*Silence As the Twelfth candle is extinguished*

*The Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross*

A reading from Luke. It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

*Brief pause*

We adore you, and we bless you, O Christ.  
**By your holy cross the world is redeemed.**

Hymn      **Were You There (vs 4) #353**

Reflection by Pastor Eric

*Silence As the final candles are extinguished*

The Proclamation of the Cross

*A cross is brought into the sanctuary and placed in the sight of the people*

*A large book is slammed to symbolize the death of Jesus.*

The Conclusion

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for you live and reign now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our crucified Lord taught us.

**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.**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved humanity: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We depart in silence and darkness to remember the death of Jesus*

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*Stations of the Cross Background* From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death and resurrection. When pilgrims came to see Jerusalem, they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus was. These sites become important holy connections with Jesus. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit. The stations, as we know them today, came about when it was no longer easy or even possible to visit the holy sites. In the 1500's, villages all over Europe started creating "replicas" of the way of the cross, with small shrines commemorating the places along the route in Jerusalem. Eventually, these shrines became the set of stations we now know and were placed in so many Churches in the world.

## Calendar

### Sunday, April 5, 2026 Easter

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Upper Church

9:00 a.m. Worship Lower Church

### Wednesday, April 8, 2026

NO Wednesday Night Services or Confirmation

### Sunday, April 12, 2026

9:00 a.m. Worship

#### Announcements

**We are glad you joined us!** We hope that you will experience the good news in mind, body, and spirit s we pray, listen, sing and share the peace of Christ and the meal of Holy Communion. You are invited to worship in as many ways as you are comfortable and able. In this bulletin, **bold print** indicates congregation's responses.

#### **Pastor will be out of the office on April 6-12, 2026**

#### **No Wednesday Service or Confirmation April 8th**

Pie Auction at EKLC –April 19 Join us in Fellowship Hall after services for a pie auction featuring our own Tyce Bettenhausen as the auctioneer.

• Proceeds will go to the Camp Scholarship Fund. • If you would like to donate a pie or two (or any other baked goods) please sign up in the Narthex. • Thank you for your support of EKLC youth!

Our church will once again be hosting the Cambridge Community Meal. We will be hosting a little earlier this year, it will be on Thursday, May 7th, at the Cambridge High School. The meal is served from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. In addition to helping with food, we are needing volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. This is a very enjoyable time to meet and visit with your neighbors and friends. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Schroeder at 608-220-2008.

**You may make a secure offering/donation to EKLC by following the directions below.** All donations are secured through Vanco. Thank you for your generous offering in this way! **Online giving directions**, you may set up recurring donations or make a one-time donation.

Go to [www.eastkoshkonong.org](http://www.eastkoshkonong.org) and click on Donate. Create a profile through this secure website, if you haven't already, and complete the form on the website. Option 2: Download the GivePlus app on your smartphone for either Android or iOS. If needed, create an account with your email address. Sign into your account and search for "East Koshkonong Lutheran Church." Select the plus "+" sign and complete the form.