



Sunday, December 7, 2025

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Acolyte ~ Tess Marchant
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Greeter ~ Ken Rude
Ushers ~ Curt & Linda Hanson
Offering Counters ~ Jean Lehr & Cheryl & Eric Nuenthel

Christmas Tree Decorating

Sermon One with Children

Gathering Hymn On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW #249

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you
can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our
grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary
of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in har-
mony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awak-
en us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have
promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteous-
ness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the
Savior. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his
coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spir-
it, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's

royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people

has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12 C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." "

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his

hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Two

Hymn of the Day Prepare the Royal Highway ELW #264

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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease *especially* Ernie, Ron, Danelle. Ronald, Jackie, Judy, Mary Lou, Lisa, Landon, Ed, Kathy, Cherie, Gary, Barb, Lindsay, Betsy, Jim, Chris, Robert, Michelle, Karen, Monica, and Gwendolyn. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Noisy Offering-for Sunday School Mission Project for ELCA World Hunger

Offering Prayer

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **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 tres-

**pass 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

Prayer after Communion

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

Blessing

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song Jesus Shall Reign

ELW #434

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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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.

Calendar

Sunday, December 7, 2025

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

5:30 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School Program

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

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. The presence, energy, and noise of children are most welcome here! The sound of children in worship is the sound of a new disciple being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and invite children to participate in worship.

Our Sunday School Christmas Program will be December 14 at 9 am.

For many, the lack of daylight during the winter intensifies other suffering. We also get stressed when our calendars fill with extra obligations this time of year. Finally, we mourn losses of all kinds throughout the holiday season. The message of Christmas is specifically sent for those suffering. It is not that "all is merry". Rather, it is that God seeks to be with us, even when we are blue. If you or someone you know is experiencing these challenging realities this season, then please join us for a Blue Christmas service December, 17 at 6:30 p.m. in support of those who are hurting through this season.

Our Christmas Eve worship schedule for December 24 will include 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 evening 5:30 worship service on December 24.

