

The background is a dark blue night sky with a large, bright yellow starburst in the upper left. The starburst has multiple points and a long, vertical beam of light extending downwards. In the lower left, there is a silhouette of the nativity scene: a woman (Mary) kneeling, a man (Joseph) standing, and a baby in a manger. The scene is set on a curved horizon line. The text is positioned on the right side of the image.

...a **Savior**
has been
born
to you;
he is
Christ
the **Lord.**

Luke 2:11, NIV

Welcome visitors! Thank you for taking the time to fill out the communion card provided by the ushers. We believe that the host of the meal provided during worship today is Christ. Christ invites everyone to this meal, saying, "This is for you for the forgiveness of sin." Echoing Christ, we invite everyone to this banquet. If you would like to receive deeper instruction in the Christian faith; if you desire to be baptized; or if you simply seek someone to pray with or for you, inquire of the pastor or indicate the need on the communion card.

Christmas Eve Worship **6pm Candlelight Service**

~Welcome~

Pastor: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

Congregation: **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

Pastor: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

Congregation: **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

Pastor: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

Congregation: **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

Lighting of Christmas Candle

Pastor: Jesus is the light of the world.

Congregation: **Jesus is the light of our lives.**

Pastor: Sing to God a new song!

Congregation: **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

Hymn..... *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*#283

The Prayer of the Day

Assistant Minister: Almighty God,

you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence

and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

East Koshkonong Lutheran Church Choir..... *"Joy to the World"*

~ The Word ~

First Lesson..... Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.

Music.....By Kaare Family

Second Lesson.....Titus 2:11-14
*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the
hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to
renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that
are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and
the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it
is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify
for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.

~Welcoming the Gospel~

Hymn.....“Angels We Have Heard on High”..... #289 verses 1 & 2
*Children are invited to ring bells each time
“Gloria in excelsis Deo” is sung.*

The Gospel.....Luke 2:1-20
God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the good news of great joy'and proclaim God's blessing of peace

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

A call and response between the reader and the assembly is placed throughout the gospel reading. Each time the reader announces To us is born a Savior, the assembly responds: Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: To us is born a Savior

C: Jesus Christ our Lord

~ Celebrating the Gospel ~

Hymn..... “Angels We Have Heard on High” verse 3.....#289

Children are invited to ring bells each time “Gloria in excelsis Deo” is sung.

Sermon..... “Your Name is on the Gift”.....Pastor Jim Schwarz

Hymn..... “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”.....#271

The Nicene Creed.....

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church.....

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Sharing of the peace.....

The Offering..... Music.....By Kaare Family

~The Meal~

The Great Thanksgiving.....

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.**

Hymn..... *“What Child Is This”*#296

Words of Institution.....

The Lord’s Prayer.....

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.

Communion

*You are invited to sing the following hymn during the
distribution of Communion:*

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” #286

Sending.....

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Candlelight Hymn..... *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*#281

CHRISTMAS EVE

We joyfully greet our members and their loved ones and all our visitors on this Christmas Eve! We remember together, with awe and gratitude, how God shone His light into our darkness on that first Christmas. We pray that we may be bearers of his light to all who languish in the darkness of poverty, illness, and fear. May we share with them the light that shines from the face of our Lord Jesus Christ.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDLELIGHTING:

Congregation will begin the Candle Lighting Ceremony prior to the hymn "Silent Night". The light will be passed down from the ushers in the center aisle. (PLEASE DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE, lest hot wax spills. Tip only unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit.) As we sing "Silent Night" elevate candles at each reference to Christ.

At the conclusion of Silent Night, candles may be extinguished. As you exit, please remember to place your candle back on the table in the Narthex.

A special thank you to The David & Teresa Schickel Family for donating and setting up the candles for the Candle Lighting Ceremony.



~Worship Assistants~

Pastor ~ Pastor James A. Schwarz
Assisting Minister ~ Lyle Walheim **Lector** ~ Joan Kaare
Acolytes ~ Thomas Stach & Maggie Loomis
Greeters ~ Lane & Judy Taylor **Ushers** ~ Peace Circle
Communion Set-up/Take-down ~ Jeff & Holly Loomis
Communion Assistants ~ Franklin & Beverly Lien
Organist ~ Judy Rusch
Seasonal Music ~ Steve, Sylvia, & Stephanie Kaare

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Poinsettia Dedication

In memory of Edna & Wilmer Chritianson from Karen Hayes

In memory of Steven Hayes from Karen Hayes

In memory of Walter Klemp from Kurt and Barb Klemp

In memory of Gertrude & Al Kapsner from Scott, Ann, Jake and Emma Nottestad

In memory of Esther & Lawrence Lashinski from Scott, Ann, Jake and Emma Nottestad

In honor of our Grandchildren from Marge and Ken Stach

In memory of Gene Gunderson from Marilyn Gunderson

In honor of our parents Florence Mathison and Bud & Betty Hommen from Arvid and Linda Mathison

In memory of Richard Lien from Madison, Kelsey and Zoe

In memory of Charlie and Jenny Wibralski from Carol Wibalski

In memory of Jan Christensen Goecke from Pastor A.S. and Mary Ellen Christensen

In memory of Bim, Geneva, and Dale Graffin from the Graffin Family

In memory of Norman & Verna Evenson from the Evenson Family

In memory of Ole and Lorraine Rude from Mike and Cheryl Rude & Judy Rusch & Family

In memory of Jim Rusch from Judy Rusch

In memory of Marvin "Pat" Peterson from Deanna and Ron Nottestad

In memory of Cheryl Fosdal and Ruth Kittleson from Wayne and Gloria Fosdal and Sandy Yates Family

In memory of Eugene Lund from Wayne, Judy, Erick, & Kyle Gjertson