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## Western Koshkonong Ev. Lutheran Church

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**WELCOME**

Welcome to all in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!  
If you are a guest today, we welcome you and invite you to worship with us  
again. Please sign our guest register.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

## OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence  
to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that  
through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to  
believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear  
us for Christ's sake. Amen.

## HYMN 169

*Brightest and Best*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

- P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are  
by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and  
deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your  
grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us: have  
mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy  
Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to  
Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

THE KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord, have mercy*)

- C: [sing, p. 42] **O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.  
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

- P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon  
us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To  
all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has

promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (*Glory be to God in the Highest*)

P: Glory be to God in the highest.

C: [sing, p. 44] **And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended!**

**To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;**

**God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again;**

**O thank Him for His Goodness!**

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: [sing, p. 45] **And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT (*Prayer of the Day*)

C: **Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us the light of Your holy Word, the guiding star that leads us to the Christ-child: Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive this light and make use of it for our salvation, and that we, like the wise men, when they were seeking the star, may not be afraid because of any hardship or peril, but put all our trust in Your only-begotten Son as our only Savior, devote our earthly possessions to the advancement of Your kingdom, and in all things serve Him, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.**

C: [sing, p. 45] **Amen.**

READINGS

ILCW LECTIONARY (All readings from the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

*The Old Testament — Isaiah 60: 1-6*

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
“Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.  
Herds of camels will cover your land,  
young camels of Midian and Ephah.  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

### *The Epistle — Ephesians 3: 2-12*

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

### *The Holy Gospel — Matthew 2: 1-12*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler

who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## RESPONSE

P: Here end the Scripture readings.

C: [sing, p. 46] **God be prais-éd for His glad tidings.**

## THE CREED

P: Having heard God’s Word, we confess our Christian faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
Begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
Very God of Very God,  
Begotten, not made,  
Being of one substance with the Father,  
By Whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures;  
and ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

**And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
Who spoke by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead  
and the Life of the world to come.**

C: [sing, p. 47} **Amen.**

**HYMN 168**

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

THE SERMON

**Let's Be "Wise" In 2019**

Matthew 2:1-12

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN VERSE

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate're the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

✠ THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

*Guests and visitors, please read the information on the bulletin insert for important information about our communion practice.*

THE PREFACE

P: The LORD be with you.

C: [sing, p. 50] **And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts unto the LORD.

C: [sing, p. 50] **We lift up our hearts unto the LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

C: [sing, p. 50] **It is good and right so to do.**

## THE GENERAL PREFACE

- P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:
- C: [sing, pp. 50, 51] **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE EXHORTATION

- P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: “This is My body, which is given for you; this is My Blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins,” you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ’s words “For the remission of sins,” you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all of your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says “Take, eat; drink of it, all of you,” and “This do in remembrance of Me.”

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ’s body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## LORD’S PRAYER

- 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.**

[sing, p. 53] **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: “Take eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: “Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## THE AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

C: [sing p. 55] **O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen**

## THE DISTRIBUTION

### HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: 325

**O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee**

## THE COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

P: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with our Savior’s Body and Blood in, with and under the bread and wine. We pray that You would strengthen us through this Sacrament in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: [sing p. 56] **Amen.**

## THE BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: [sing p. 57] **Amen, amen, amen.**

## HYMN 173

*The Star Proclaims the King Is Here*

## THE CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.