

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Tonight we gather with the church throughout the world around the cross of Christ. His cross comes into our midst both as the sign of God's solidarity with all human suffering and as a symbol of God's triumph over sin, death, and evil. Standing with women disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the Tree around which we assemble is indeed the Tree of Life.

WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S SERVICE <u>There are several ways you can participate</u>:

- 1. You can gather alone or with members of your household for this LIVESTREAM SERVICE, which will begin at 7pm on Friday, April 2. If this is your choice, you may want to have a copy of this service available.
- 2. When the time comes for <u>PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS</u>, you can participate either by (1) texting specific requests to Pastor Kindem's mobile phone, or (2) sign-in to YouTube and use the chat function to make a prayer request. Once your prayer request is received, a lit candle will be placed in a candle box as a symbol of your petition.
- 3. You can simply watch and pray.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

James Jelasic

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray... (silence is kept)
 - Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him–so marred was his appearance,

beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals-

¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see,

and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1} Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.
⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
⁹ They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
Word of God. Word of Life

C Thanks be to God.

+ THE BIDDING PRAYER +

A Siblings in Christ, we've come to the time in this service when we enter into prayer for the whole world using an ancient pattern passed down to us through the generations.
 At this moment in time when people throughout the world are continuing to experience the ravages of COVID-19 and its variants, and when hatred tears apart communities and even countries, our prayers are particularly bent toward those who are suffering, those who are serving, and those who are working to restore damaged bodies and spirits.

After each bid or focus for prayer is enunciated, a time of silence will follow. At the end of that silence, Pastor Erik will lead us in a collect that summarizes the concern and places it in the hands of God. A Let us then pray, sisters and brothers, for the holy church throughout the world. *Silent prayer*

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, through the death of your Son on the cross you declared victory over death. By your Holy Spirit, renew your Church so that we may persevere in the faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

A Let us pray for all who face conflict, violence, or injustice of any kind. *Silent prayer*

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you call us to imagine your world as you would have it to be. Open our eyes to behold your sacred image within each and every human being, and give us boldness to speak your words of justice where deep divisions have dismantled community, where power has become abusive, and where our planet has been plundered. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- A Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who are sick with the coronavirus and other diseases.

Silent prayer

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you are the Healer of our illnesses, our anxieties, and our loneliness. Grant relief and recovery to all who are touched by disease, including the ongoing pandemic, and enable people across the globe to have access to life-sustaining remedies. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

A Let us pray for those whose medical skills are now being called upon in great measure. *Silent prayer*

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you provide caregivers who work tirelessly to bring respite and renewed strength to those who are sick. Give protection and fortitude to nurses, doctors, and medical researchers, that through their dedication many will be restored to health. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

A Let us pray for the dying and those who mourn. *Silent prayer*

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you console the dying as death draws near. Hold them, and those who grieve their loss, in your hands, and remind all of us that nothing not even death can separate us from your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- A Let us pray for those who have experienced the loss of income due to the pandemic or other circumstances.

Silent prayer

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you provide everything we need for daily living. Move those of us who have the means to share your bounty with our neighbors who are challenged by worries about how to pay for food and shelter. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

A Let us pray for those whose labor enables us to maintain our daily lives. *Silent prayer*

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you supply us with goods and services through the efforts of so many people. Watch over all who are employed in agriculture, transportation, education, public safety, and other occupations that contribute to our well-being.
- C Amen.

A Let us pray for all who serve in public office in these uncertain times. *Silent prayer*

- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you have authority over all the nations. Impart wisdom to all leaders in our country and elsewhere as they make far-reaching decisions, and let their words and actions be guided by good counsel and compassion.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- A Let us pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Shelley, for our pastor, Erik, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.
- Silent prayer
- P Almighty and vulnerable God, you are the One to whom we turn for courage in these times. Give us generous hearts that seek new ways to reach out to those affected by the physical, mental, and economic stresses of these days. Send us out to be your caring and giving people, and grant us your peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

+ PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS +

Prayer around the cross is a way of expressing our invisible communion not only with the crucified Jesus but with all who suffer: all the victims of disease, abandonment, abuse, discrimination or torture.

P People of God, we enter now into a time of prayer for individual persons, concerns, and situations that are close to our hearts. Before you are a series of candle boxes laid out in the shape of a cross. In each box a central candle has been lit. At this time, we invite you to share prayer requests with those of us who are present at Peace. As we receive your requests, we will light a candle, give voice to your concern, and place the candle as a symbol of your petition.

You may submit a request NOW by texting it to Pastor Erik's mobile number, or by using the YouTube chat function.

SONGS AND CHANTS

While prayer requests are being exchanged, we invite you to join in voice or in spirit with the music being sung in the background.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

<u>Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am</u>

Take, oh, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Bring us peace, O Lord.

<u>When I Feel Despair</u>

When I feel despair, I remember that truth and love, I remember that truth and love have always won.

P As we close this time of prayer, let us join together to pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Were You There

African American Spiritual Jon Lackey with James Jelasic

Following the postlude, you are invited to stay as long as you wish. God keep you close as you await the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter morn.

PERMISSIONS

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LIVE STREAM EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE @ 10:30am

Join us online for a Livestream Celebration of Christ's Resurrection at 10:30am on Easter Morning, April 4, 2021.

With Holy Communion. Tune in as we celebrate God's triumph over death and despair!

CHRISTIAN ED/FAITH FORMATION

There are no Adult or Sunday School Classes on Easter Sunday. Classes resume on April 11.