

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Welcome to Worship. Your presence enriches our community.

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 hear the testimony of the Scriptures and 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.

+ GATHERING +

We gather in silence

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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 *High voices LIGHT print; low voices BOLD print.* 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.

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.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

⁶All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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.

⁹They 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.

¹⁰Yet 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.

¹¹Out 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.

¹²Therefore 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22 Read responsively

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

They cried out to you and were delivered;

they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; They shake their heads.

"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him."

Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help. Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion. I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.

Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

(Pause)

I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

THE GOSPEL: John 19:16b-30

- P The holy gospel according to John, the 19th chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews." ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- P The gospel of our Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

+ 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 — as discord and inequity tear apart communities and nations, as war rages in Ukraine, as millions of refugees flee from their homes, and as the effects of COVID-19 continue to be felt across the globe — our prayers are particularly bent toward those who suffer, those who serve us, and those who work 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.

+ 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 come forward as you are moved to do so, to light and place the candle as a symbol of your petition.

During the prayers, we invite you to join in voice or in spirit with the chants below.

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.

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

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.

- 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.

Were You There

SENDING HYMN

African American Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Following the hymn, 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.

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

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RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.

As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

WORSHIP NOTES

<u>The Bidding ("Asking") Prayer</u> for the whole family of God has been a traditional part of Good Friday worship since ancient times in Jerusalem. All people and concerns are included in the work of Jesus on the cross. We include those same concerns and people in our prayers. It has set the pattern for our weekly Prayer of the People.

No Easter Vigil again this year.

Peace has a rich history of marking the Easter Vigil, however, during these pandemic years we determined that we could not do justice to the tradition in ways that are fitting. Therefore we have allowed the Vigil tradition to lie fallow for a third year. We hope that circumstances may allow us to revive the tradition in future years.

PERMISSIONS

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