

Welcome to  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



*Good Friday*

*April 3, 2026  
7 pm Worship Service*

*Pastor Brandon Johns*

## THE SERVICE BEGINS IN SILENCE

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. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12**

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. <sup>14</sup>Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—<sup>15</sup>so 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.

<sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>He 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. <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>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.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

#### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

<sup>14</sup>Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

<sup>5:7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

#### **GOSPEL: John 18:1--19:42**

The Passion of Our Lord according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.  
***Due to the length of this reading, we have not printed it in this bulletin. You are directed to follow along in your Bible.***

Verses of "Were You There" will be sung at various intervals. It will be played through in its entirety for the first verse and then only an introductory chord thereafter.

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

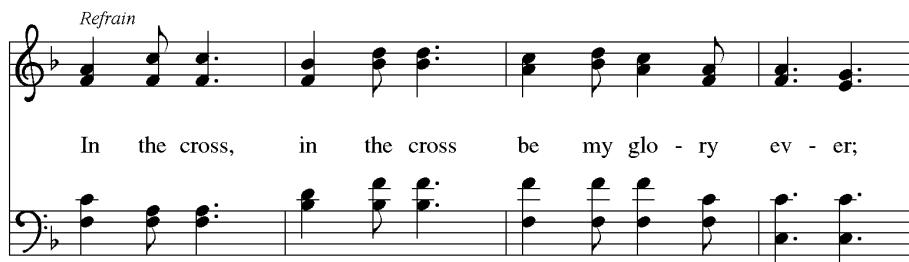


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.

By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for Yehiel and Melissa our bishops, for Pastor Johns, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ. *Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for the Jewish people the first to hear the word of God. *Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.  
*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.  
*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for God's creation.  
*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for those who serve in public office.  
*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**A:** Let us pray for those in need.  
*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**P:** Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask,

**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**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE CROSS**

Behold the life-giving cross,  
on which has hung the Savior of the world.  
**Oh, come, let us worship him.**



### **THE SOLEMN REPROACHES**

*During this time or at the end of the service, worshipers may offer a sign of reverence to the cross. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or holding a cross at home.*

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you?  
Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom and delivered you by the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you with the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vine, but you have brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?  
Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

*We proclaim the triumph of the cross:*

**There in God's Garden**

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it,  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drills of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

*This concludes the service. Depart in the peace won for you on the cross.  
You may also stay and meditate from your pew or at the foot of the cross  
or pray from home as long as you feel moved to do so.*



**ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).*

ELCA Presiding Bishop  
SWPA Synod Bishop  
Pastor  
Organist  
Sexton  
Lector  
Tech Support

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
The Rev. Melissa Stohler  
The Rev. Brandon Johns  
Marge Wearing  
Joe Ludwik  
Cheryl Thomas  
Lily and Anna Johns

**St. Peter's Upcoming Events:**

Sat. April 4	All Day	Keeping the Word Alive Vigil
	10:30 am	Worship Setup
	11:00 am	Fellowship Setup
Sun. April 5	7:00 am	Sunrise Service
	8:00 am	Easter Breakfast
	9:00 am	Sunday School & Egg Hunt
	10:15 am	Festal Worship

**Staying in Touch:**

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon.

Pastor Johns can also be reached at the church.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: [stpeterslcecc@zoominternet.net](mailto:stpeterslcecc@zoominternet.net)

Pastor Email: [rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org](http://www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org)



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