

# The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ,  
and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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**Good Friday**  
April 3, 2026  
12:00 and 7:00 pm

## **The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life**

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey  
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ  
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

**We welcome all who worship with us today.**

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,  
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

**Children are welcome and celebrated!**

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby  
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.  
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent  
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to  
receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward  
starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the  
center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship  
assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief  
moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in  
the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so  
that all may freely receive. Children who do not commune may come forward for a  
blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to  
remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at  
the beginning of distribution.

## Welcome

*Welcome to our Tenebrae service this evening.*

*The word "Tenebrae" means darkness in Latin, and this service of deepening darkness mirrors the evil that came over the world at the crucifixion.*

*As the service unfolds, candles will be extinguished as we remember the final hours of Jesus' life and the reality of his death. When we extinguish the final candle, the Christ candle, we will experience the utter darkness which fell upon the world with Christ's final breath. At the end of the service, we will depart in silence without a benediction, because until Easter Sunday, there is simply nothing more to say.*

## Candle Lighting

In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep. Then God said,  
**"Let there be light."**

And there was light. And every day since, the light has come and gone.

**The sun has risen and set.**

The moon has waxed and waned.

**The light is still with us.**

In the beginning was the Word, which brought all things into being.

What has come into being through him is life,

**the light of all people.**

The light shined in the darkness,

**and the darkness did not overtake it.**

When God made the light, when the light of all people came into the world,  
God did not send away the dark.

**The darkness remains.**

God created the night for dreams and clarity,

**an exhaling of the light.**

Let us enter this holy darkness to bear witness to the light of the world  
who was extinguished by violence.

**Let us worship our Incarnate God.**

**First Reading: Arrest**     Luke 22:47-53

Translation: NRSVue

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came,  
and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them.  
He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him,  
“Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?”  
When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,  
“Lord, should we strike with the sword?”  
Then one of them struck the slave  
of the high priest and cut off his right ear.  
But Jesus said, “No more of this!”  
And he touched his ear and healed him.  
Then Jesus said to the chief priests,  
the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,  
“Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel?  
When I was with you day after day in the temple,  
you did not lay hands on me.  
But this is your hour and the power of darkness!”

## Visio Divina

**Revealed Through Nonviolence**, By Lauren Wright Pittman  
Inspired by Luke 22:47-53; Luke 23:33-38, 44-46



I invite you into a time of prayerful contemplation as we look deeply at the art. Take a moment to let your eyes move about the image.



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;  
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

**Second Reading: Sentencing** Luke 23:13-25

Translation: NRSVue

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him." Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Call to Confession**

In his book *What Will You Do with King Jesus?* James A. Harnish writes, “Is it possible that our world still knows better how to deal with a bandit, a murderer, and insurrectionist than it knows what to do with the Prince of Peace? Is it possible that we would rather deal with raw power that rides on a stallion than with this one who comes on a donkey, with the weapons of love, patience, suffering, and peace? Given the choice, isn't it possible that we would take Barabbas, too?”

Friends, the passion narrative invites us to place ourselves in the story, to examine our own complicity in cycles of violence. And the good news is, we don't have to do this alone. The God who made us knows our hearts, knows our flaws, and knows all our best intentions. We don't have to hide. There's no need to save face. Let us simply turn to God in prayer with our whole hearts.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we can easily see ourselves in any number of the people surrounding Jesus in his final days.

We are Judas, betraying what we hold most dear for status, wealth, and security. We are the soldiers, using our power to maintain the status quo which serves us.

We are the disciples, brandishing our weapons to fight violence with violence,  
and we are the high priest's servant, victims of a world hell-bent on winning.

**Prince of Peace, forgive us.**

We are Herod, finding our entertainment at the expense of other people's dignity.  
We are Pilate, excusing ourselves from the blame that is rightfully ours.  
We are the crowd, foaming at the mouth and demanding blood,  
and we are Barabbas, our lives spared while others are crucified.

**Prince of Peace, forgive us.**

Forgive us, we pray, for the parts we have played.  
Set us free from the sin that chokes the world,  
threatening to extinguish all that is good and beautiful.  
Break the cycles of violence, step into the machinery of a world  
fueled by division and disrupt us.

**Forgive us, Prince of Peace. Kyrie eleison. Have mercy on us. Amen**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Family of faith, the impossibly good news is that we are forgiven.  
No matter what we have or haven't done,  
our God is always waiting with open arms to receive us.

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **Musical Offering**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
Kitti Berkheimer, Reylene Starego & Mike Berkheimer  
Handbell Trio

arr. Halvorsen

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

### **Reflecting on the Cross**

*You are invited to visit one or more of the following stations:*

**Station 1:** A wooden cross with a hammer and nails.

You are invited to hold a nail as you pray for people experiencing violence and death, then tap the nail into the cross.

**Station 2:** Information about the Innocence Project, the Equal Justice Initiative.

You may pick up information about the Innocence Project.

You are invited to write a postcard to leaders, advocating for justice system reform.

**Station 3:** Pieces of bread and a cup of red wine vinegar.

You are invited to take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and taste the sour wine Jesus was offered.

**Station 4:** Paper strips for a paper chain.

You are invited to write on a strip of paper something that keeps people bound to systems of violence. Then staple the strip of paper into a loop at the end of the chain as you pray for liberation.



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

**Fourth Reading: Death** Luke 23:44-46

Translation: NRSVue

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

**Extinguishing the Light**

***All depart in silence.***

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



**venmo**

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at:  
[lchsemmaus.org](http://lchsemmaus.org).

Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

"Revealed Through Nonviolence]" by Lauren Pittman A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

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*Go to Dark Gethsemane, Text and Tune Public Domain.*

*Ah, Holy Jesus, Text and Tune Public Domain.*



### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy  
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music  
Karin Kahler, Director Faith Formation for Children

### **WORSHIP HELPERS**

#### **Readers**

12:00 pm – Rick Doty, Deb Stevens  
7:00 pm – Craig Kauffman, Lorie Stout Sherman, Leesa Wimmer, Bob Mueller

#### **Greeters**

12:00 pm – Barb Roba  
7:00 pm – Sue Smith

#### **Ushers**

12:00 pm – Barb Roba  
7:00 pm -Rob Smith

#### **Production/Technology Team**

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Lexi H., Max H., XJ H., Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross,  
Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz,  
Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,  
Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

#### **Altar Care**

Bob Rice, Carolyn Rice, Terri Hinderliter, Linda Letts, Jennifer Wetzel,  
Marian Harrison, Donna Bhagat, Lynda Swartz, Cindy Clark, Deb Stevens,  
Julie Timmcke, Robbie Flynn