

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Palm Sunday Sunday of the Passion

March 24, 2024

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome! Palm Sunday is named after the palms that were spread before Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. The peoples' cry, "Hosanna to the Son of David!", clearly shows that they hailed him as their messianic king. Yet only days later, our Lord would hear a very different cry, "Crucify him!" Today's service takes us along on that journey from joyful expectation to somber contemplation, highlighted by our responsive reading of the extended passion narrative. Thus, we are prepared to enter Holy Week --the most important week of the entire Church Year.

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

Communion Note: We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

Divine Service, Setting Two
LSB page 167



The Preparation

Prelude: “Herzlich tut mich verlangen” – J. Pachelbel

Greeting

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Collect

P: Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God,
You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.
Mercifully grant
that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience
and be made partakers of His resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 11:1-10

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

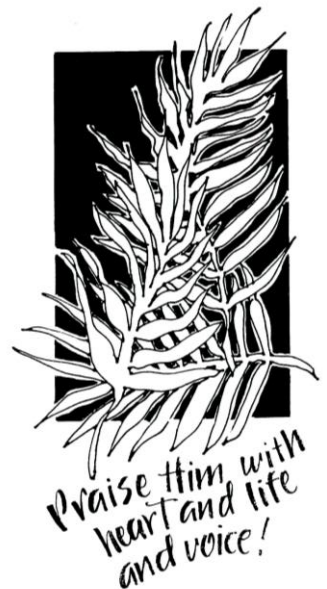
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: **In the name of the Lord.**

Procession of Palms

(Procession of Palms: Starting with those in the **back pews**, worshipers please follow the Pastor up the center aisle to receive your palm at the altar and return by the side aisle. All the while we sing "All Glory Laud and Honor". (Words on page 3.)



Congregation: 442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

(Refrain) All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.



You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *(Refrain)*

The company of angels is praising you on high;
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. *(Refrain)*

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went,
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *(Refrain)*

To you, before your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *(Refrain)*

As you received their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King. *(Refrain)*

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Epistle: Phillipians 2:5-11

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day: 441 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Mark (Mark 14:32 – 15:39)

Hymn: 542 When I Behold Jesus Christ

Prayers After each petition of the prayer: **P:** Lord in your mercy, **C:** **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For comfort:

Hoffschneider family
Erkeboni/Teschke families
Pilchard family

Death of Sherry
Death of Becky
Death of Rob

Dunbar
Teschke
Heebner

For those with health concerns:

Ekaterina	Fran Bryzinski	Kay Compton	Stephen Gewecke
Tom Reside	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Esther
Jim Jones	Pete Serone	Phillip Trivett	Maryanne Reside
Brennan	Marge Carr	Pat Dietz	Valerie Nebbie

For those with cancer:

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Charles Greenberg	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Anna Mantel	Judy Grube
Trudy	Kaleigh Moore	Steve Saumsiegle	Candace
Gunter	Doris		

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman (son)
Daniel Gewecke (in Middle East)				

For those suffering around the world:

War in Europe	Prayers for peace and forgiveness
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision
War in Middle East	Prayers for peace and forgiveness

Birthdays

Debbie Scheblein Mar 28



Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Jesu meine Freude” – J.S. Bach

Congregational Offertory: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion (page 177)

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: And also with you.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising you and saying:
**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
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.**



P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

C: Agnus Dei **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymn: 629 What is This Bread

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

Benediction (page 183)

Closing Hymn: 527 O Savior, Precious Savior

Postlude: "Herzlich tut mit verlangen" – J. G. Walther



Holy Week/Easter Schedule at St. Peter:

Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, March 28, 7:30 PM
Good Friday Service	Friday, March 29, 7:30 PM
Nursery School Egg Hunt	Saturday, March 30, 10:00 AM
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, March 31, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, March 31, 9:15 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, March 31, 10:00 AM





Announcements – Week of March 24, 2024

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week
Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 - 3:00**

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Stephen Behnfeldt (Communion Assistant and Reader), Fred Grube (Usher), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), Juliet Behnfeldt (Acolyte), Judy Grube and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/5Wqs6f8pM14?feature=share> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. We're on break from our study of Acts until after Easter. Join us for worship on Thurs and Fri at 7:30pm during this Holy Week. We'll resume on Wednesday, April 3rd.

Sunday Bible Study. This Sunday we'll examine the day-to-day events of Holy Week, a busy week of ministry for our Lord Jesus that included the Palm Sunday parade, cleansing of the temple, debates with religious leaders, the Last Supper, and the crucifixion. Join us!

Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl ministry team continues to meet every other week, creating gifts to share. Consider joining them!

Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

Service and Other

Spring Clean-up continues – a task list is posted on the bulletin board for anyone who wants to help out during the week as we prepare for Easter.

Easter Egg Hunt – new opportunity! In addition to our regular Easter morning egg hunt at 10:00, we will be offering a *March 30 Saturday morning egg hunt at 10 AM for Nursery School students and their families.* There are additional eggs in the narthex to be filled with wrapped treats, and we would welcome helpers on Saturday morning at 9:00 to help hide eggs and join the fun - see the sign-up for both hunts on the bulletin board. Thanks for your help!

Easter Flowers available for purchase. If you'd like to buy Easter flowers to decorate the altar for our Easter celebration, please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Lilies - \$14, 6" daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths - \$10. Flowers can be taken home following the late service.

St. Peter's is Saved to Serve! The way we serve individually in our workplaces, homes, and communities is a way our whole congregation is visible to our neighbors! On a post-it note, jot down how you are shining Christ's light at work, in civic and social organizations, in your recreation, etc. so we can see where God is sending us out each Sunday after worship and through the week!

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to this year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For **March** we could use **children's or costume jewelry, jump ropes, and matchbox cars**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex.

Flowers. Although flowers will not be placed on the altar during Lent, there is a flower sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for spring. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion. Suggested donation is \$25.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **March's collection is Breakfast – cereal, pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, etc.**

Faithfulness Report: Attendance: 3/17: 52 (+7 online)
Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$ 6728 Building: \$50 Easter Flowers: \$20

Weekly Schedule.

TUESDAY (3/26) 6:00am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 4:30pm Confirmation Class
THURSDAY (3/28) 7:30pm Maundy Thursday service
FRIDAY (3/29) 7:30pm Good Friday service
SATURDAY (3/30) 10:00am Nursery School Easter Egg Hunt
SUNDAY (3/31) 8:00 & 10:30am Easter Sunday services;
9:15am Easter Breakfast; 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt

Website and Facebook. Our website is at www.stpeternj.org, and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>. Come check us out!

Other Important web links:

NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod lcms.org
LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief
The Lutheran Hour" Broadcast lhm.org

This week's Bible memory verse challenge: Zechariah 9:9

Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Epistle: Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Gospel: John 12:20–43

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.

If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

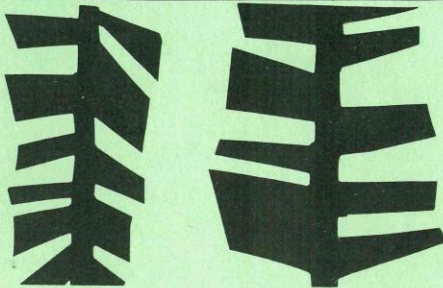
³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰"He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,
lest they see with their eyes,
and understand with their heart, and
turn,
and I would heal them."

⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴²Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.



THE PASSION OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO
ST. MARK



The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha, all stand.

When desired, the reading may begin at the point marked:

The Passion Gospel is announced in the following manner:

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO ST. MARK:**

EVANGELIST: When they reached a place called Gethsemane, he said to his disciples,

JESUS: Sit here while I pray.

EVANGELIST: And he took Peter and James and John with him. Horror and dismay came over him, and he said to them,

JESUS: My heart is ready to break with grief; stop here, and stay awake.

EVANGELIST: Then he went forward a little, threw himself on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass him by.

JESUS: Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; take this cup away from me. Yet not what I will, but what thou wilt.

EVANGELIST: He came back and found them asleep; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: Asleep, Simon? Were you not able to stay awake for one hour? Stay awake, all of you; and pray that you may be spared the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

EVANGELIST: Once more he went away and prayed. On his return he found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know how to answer him. The third time he came and said to them,

JESUS: Still sleeping? Still taking your ease? Enough! The hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed to sinful men. Up, let us go forward! My betrayer is upon us.

EVANGELIST: Suddenly, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him was a crowd armed with swords and cudgels, sent by the chief priests, lawyers, and elders. Now the traitor had agreed with them upon a signal:

JUDAS: The one I kiss is your man; seize him and get him safely away.

EVANGELIST: When he reached the spot, he stepped forward at once and said to Jesus,

JUDAS: Rabbi.

EVANGELIST: And kissed him. Then they seized him and held him fast. One of the party drew his sword, and struck at the High Priest's servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus spoke:

JESUS: Do you take me for a bandit, that you have come out with swords and cudgels to arrest me? Day after day I was within your reach as I taught in the temple, and you did not lay hands on me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

EVANGELIST: Then the disciples all deserted him and ran away. Among those following was a young man with nothing on but a linen cloth. They tried to seize him; but he slipped out of the linen cloth and ran away naked. Then they led Jesus away to the High Priest's house, where the chief priests, elders, and doctors of the law were all assembling. Peter followed him at a distance right into the High Priest's courtyard; and there he remained, sitting among the attendants, warming himself at the fire. The chief priests and the whole Council tried to find some evidence against Jesus to warrant a death-sentence, but failed to find any. Many gave false evidence against him, but their statements did not tally. Some stood up and gave false evidence against him to this effect:

CONGREGATION: We heard him say, "I will pull down this temple, made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."

EVANGELIST: But even on this point their evidence did not agree. Then the High Priest stood up in his place and questioned Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: Have you no answer to the charges that these witnesses bring against you?

EVANGELIST: But he kept silence; he made no reply. Again the High Priest questioned him:

HIGH PRIEST: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

JESUS: I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God and coming with the clouds of heaven.

EVANGELIST: Then the High Priest tore his robes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: Need we call further witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?

EVANGELIST: Their judgment was unanimous: that he was guilty, and should be put to death. Some began to spit on him, blindfolded him, and struck him with their fists, crying out,

CONGREGATION: Prophecy!

EVANGELIST: And the High Priest's men set upon him with blows. Meanwhile Peter was still below in the courtyard. One of the High Priest's serving-maids came by and saw him there warming himself. She looked into his face and said,

SERVING-MAID: You were there too, with this man from Nazareth, this Jesus.

PETER: I know nothing. I do not understand what you mean.

EVANGELIST: Then he went outside into the porch; and the maid saw him there again and began to say to the bystanders,

SERVING-MAID: He is one of them.

EVANGELIST: And again he denied it. Again, a little later, the bystanders said to Peter,

CONGREGATION: Surely you are one of them. You must be; you are a Galilean.

EVANGELIST: At this he broke out into curses, and with an oath he said,

PETER: I do not know this man you speak of.

EVANGELIST: Then the cock crew a second time; and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will disown me three times." And he burst into tears.

—•—•—

EVANGELIST: As soon as morning came, the chief priests, having made their plan with the elders and lawyers in full council, put Jesus in chains; then they led him away and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

PILATE: Are you the king of the Jews?

JESUS: The words are yours.

EVANGELIST: And the chief priests brought many charges against him. Pilate questioned him again:

PILATE: Have you nothing to say in your defence? You see how many charges they are bringing against you.

EVANGELIST: But, to Pilate's astonishment, Jesus made no further reply. At the festival season the Governor used to release one prisoner at the people's request. As it happened, the man known as Barabbas was then in custody with the rebels who had committed murder in the rising. When the crowd appeared asking for the usual favour, Pilate replied,

PILATE: Do you wish me to release for you the king of the Jews?

EVANGELIST: For he knew it was out of malice that they had brought Jesus before him. But the chief priests incited the crowd to ask him to release Barabbas rather than Jesus. Pilate spoke to them again:

PILATE: Then what shall I do with the man you call king of the Jews?

CONGREGATION: Crucify him!

PILATE: Why, what harm has he done?

EVANGELIST: But they shouted all the louder,

CONGREGATION: Crucify him!

EVANGELIST: So Pilate, in his desire to satisfy the mob, released Barabbas to them; and he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers took him inside the courtyard (the Governor's headquarters) and called together the whole company. They dressed him in purple, and plaiting a crown of thorns, placed it on his head. Then they began to salute him with,

CONGREGATION: Hail, King of the Jews!

EVANGELIST: They beat him about the head with a cane and spat upon him, and then knelt and paid mock homage to him. When they had finished their mockery, they stripped him of the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. Then they took him out to crucify him. A man called Simon, from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they pressed him into service to carry his cross.

(Here, if they are not doing so already, all stand.)

EVANGELIST: They brought him to the place called Golgotha, which means, "Place of a Skull". He was offered drugged wine, but he would not take it. Then they fastened him to the cross. They divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should have. The hour of the crucifixion was nine in the morning, and the inscription giving the charge against him read, "The king of the Jews". Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. The passers-by hurled abuse at him, wagging their heads:

CONGREGATION: Aha! You would pull the temple down, would you, and build it in three days? Come down from the cross and save yourself!

EVANGELIST: So too the chief priests and lawyers jested with one another:

CONGREGATION: He saved others, but he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down now from the cross. If we see that, we shall believe.

EVANGELIST: Even those who were crucified with him taunted him. At midday a darkness fell over the whole land, which lasted till three in the afternoon; and at three Jesus cried aloud,

JESUS: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

EVANGELIST: Which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders, on hearing this, said,

CONGREGATION: Hark, he is calling Elijah.

EVANGELIST: A man ran and soaked a sponge in sour wine and held it to his lips on the end of a cane.

THE MAN: Let us see if Elijah will come to take him down.

EVANGELIST: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and died.

(Silence is kept for a few moments, during which some may wish to kneel.)

EVANGELIST: And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion who was standing opposite him saw how he died, he said,

CONGREGATION: Truly this man was a Son of God.

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