

St. Peter Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J. (609) 466-0939



A Tenebrae Service



Good Friday

April 18, 2025

Behold the Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sin of the World.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, is led to the cross as the sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the world. In perfect faith and faithfulness, He shares all our weaknesses and temptations, “yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15), and as our merciful High Priest, He brings us to the Father in peace.

Prelude: “Ich ruf du zir, Herr Jesu Christ” – J.S. Bach

Opening Versicles

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C: make haste to help me, O Lord. Praise to You, O Christ,
Lamb of our salvation.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God,

graciously behold this Your family

for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death
upon the cross;

through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

I. Jesus is Condemned

Isaiah 53:8 ~ Luke 23:13-25

Psalm 17 (read responsively)

L: Hear me out, God! Listen to my case: I speak the truth. You be my judgement!

C: Search my heart; search it in the darkness of night. Test me with fire. See my innocence.

L: I speak no evil. I have kept Your word, walking steadfastly in Your path.

C: My feet have not stumbled.

L: I call out to You, God, for You will hear me.

C: Listen! Hear what I have to say. Show Your great love, O saving God.

L: Let me flee to You.

C: Let me be Your beloved, sheltering beneath Your wings, safe from wicked brutes.

L: My enemies hem me in, craving my flesh. There is no pity in them, only boastful words.

C: They draw near like ravenous lions, crouched, ready to spring, eyes fixed upon me, eager for the kill.

L: But my reward is to behold Your face;

C: It is enough for me to awake in Your presence.

(First candle is extinguished)

Hymn: 440 (v. 1-3) Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

II. Jesus Carries His Cross
Isaiah 53:7 ~ John 19:16-17a

Psalm 55 (read responsively)

L: Hear me, God! Do not turn away!

C: Listen! Answer me! Grief cuts me to the core.

L: See me shudder at the enemy's shouts, at the jeers of the wicked.

C: Hear their twisted lies and spiteful curses.

L: My heart quivers, stricken by death's terrors;

C: Fear has me in its grip, and I tremble.

L: I pray for wings like a dove to fly far, far away.

C: I would flee to the wilderness and build a nest there.

L: There I would rest from this tempest, God,

C: There, far from raging tongues.

L: It was my friends who turned on me, not some foe I could shrug off,
but close friends.

C: We used to pray together.

L: See their wickedness, God. See how they befriend evil.

C: I cry out to You, morning, noon, and night. I complain bitterly.

L: But You have listened, God. You have heard my case.

**C: You break their power over me, saving God. You give me
peace.**

L: Take my burdens, God; save me from stumbling.

C: I will trust in You always.

(Second candle is extinguished)

Hymn: 450 (v. 1-4) O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

III. Jesus Falls Beneath His Cross
Isaiah 53:2b-4,11b ~ Luke 23:6

Psalm 38 (read responsively)

L: God, in Your great anger do not chastise or punish me.

**C: Your arrows have struck deep; Your hand weighs heavily upon
me.**

L: Because of Your rage, my flesh wastes away;

C: Because of my sin, my bones grow brittle.

L: I am bent by guilt, burdened by my load; my wounds reek and
fester.

C: Broken by folly, I walk in sorrow, grieving all the day long.

L: My flesh burns, consumed by fever.

C: Bruised and stamped upon, I cry out, groaning from the heart.

L: Lord, You see all secrets, You hear my sighs.

**C: My heart breaks, all my strength has fled, even my eyes grow
dim.**

L: Friends shrink from my wounds; relatives keep their distance.

C: Enemies set snares, hatch plots, threaten death.

L: But I am deaf to their words, silent at their taunts.

C: I am like one who, hearing nothing, gives no answer.

L: For it is You I trust, my God, You who can answer them.

C: Stop their gloating and boasting when I stumble.

L: God, do not leave me alone. Do not abandon me.

C: Come, quickly save me, O God, my God.

(Third candle is extinguished)

Hymn: 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

IV. Jesus is Stripped

Isaiah 53:6 ~ John 19:23-24

Psalm 31 (read responsively)

L: I shelter in You, God; take away my shame.
C: Save me! Set me free! Listen! Come quickly!
L: Be my rock of safety, my stronghold, my fortress.
C: God, my rock, I call on Your name! Lead me! Guide me!
L: Untangle me from the net; draw me close to You.
**C: I place myself in Your hands, God, my safety. I trust You;
I delight in Your love, in Your faithfulness, O God.**
L: You saw my pain, my wounded spirit;
C: You saved me from the cage and set me free.
L: Pity me, God. Grief grips me; misery strangles me.
**C: There is so much pain – the years are filled with sighs.
I grow weak! How brittle are my bones!**
L: Enemies hound me down. Neighbors scoff and scorn.
**C: My friends desert me, avoiding my gaze as though I am a
corpse, one of the damned.**
L: But I trust You, God; I am Yours alone.
C: Let Your love shine upon me, now and always.
L: Let those who love You know Your embrace. Let them see Your
justice.
C: Teach them to take heart, to trust in You, O God.

(Fourth candle is extinguished)

Hymn: 456 Were You There

V. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Deuteronomy 21:22-23a ~ Mark 15:22-25

Psalm 25 (read responsively)

L: I worship You, my God, I trust You; save me from disgrace, from
the jeers of my foes.
**C: It is those who break faith who are the fools, not the ones who
wait for You.**
L: Show me Your path, God. Teach me, guide me, lead me in truth.
C: for You are my God. I have waited for You all day.
L: Remember Your tenderness, Your endless love,
**C: and forget the sins of my youth, my frailties. Because of Your
goodness, remember me, God.**
L: You show sinners the straight road, leading the poor to justice.
**C: Those who keep Your law walk in kindness and truth. For the
sake of Your name, forgive me.**
L: I love You, O God. Show me the way I should choose, the path of
blessing.
**C: You are a friend to those who love You, to those who cherish
Your law.**
L: I fix my eyes upon You,
C: for You will set me free from the trap.
L: Look at me, God; pity me. I am sad and alone.
**C: Lighten my heart, my heavy burden. Heal my festering
wounds.**
L: Let me shelter in You. Give me integrity for a shield because I
wait for You.
C: Rescue me, God, from all my troubles.

(Fifth candle is extinguished)

Hymn: 543 (v. 1-4) Upon the Cross Extended

VI. Jesus Dies on the Cross

Isaiah 53:5 ~ John 19:30b-37

Psalm 16 (read responsively)

L: Keep me, God. You are my safety, my only happiness. I delight in fidelity.

C: Those who chase other gods bring troubles upon themselves. When they pour out blood offerings and praise the names of idols, I will not join them.

L: You, God, are all I have; everything depends on You.

C: You guide me; You teach my heart, O God.

L: I will bless You.

C: I will think of You always, mindful of Your presence, O God my strength.

L: You will not abandon me or leave me among the dead.

C: No, You will lead me to life, to endless joy, at Your right hand, forever.

(Sixth candle is extinguished)

Song: Lead Me to Calvary Steve deDufour, Hope Dunbar, Jane Heebner

Sermon

Hymn: 439 (v. 1-5) O, Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

VII. Jesus is Buried

Isaiah 53:9,10a,11a ~ John 19:41-42

Prayers (please stand)

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer (whispered)

Removal of the Christ Light

Strepitus (a loud noise symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb)

Return of the Christ Light

Closing Hymn: 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Concluding Collect

P: Let us pray.

We implore You, O Lord,

that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people
who have held the passion and death of Your Son
in devout remembrance,

that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort,
and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation;
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*(You are invited to remain for silent meditation as long as you wish.
Please leave in silence. We celebrate The Resurrection of Our Lord on
Sunday with services at 8:00 and 10:30.)*