



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



seeking:
*Why have you
forsaken me?*

April 7, 2023 7:00 pm

Good Friday



In Preparation for Worship

With this Good Friday liturgy, we continue our celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Though we gather to recall our Lord's passion, we celebrate the wonder and mystery of the cross in the sure hope of the resurrection. Today we pray around the cross as the sign of the world's redemption. From the cross flows forgiveness, healing, and salvation. We acclaim the cross as the tree of life, for as Christ vanquishes death and evil, the world is given new birth and a living hope. With all the faithful we are invited to worship, giving thanks for this great mystery of our faith. We depart in silence, ready to return for the Easter celebration and the culmination of The Three Days.

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,

On this day we gather to remember the death of Jesus at the hands of human sin. He was despised and rejected, oppressed and afflicted, yet he was prepared to be wounded for the sake of God's grace and truth.

We come overwhelmed by the depth of Jesus' love for us, and his commitment to a different way than the world and we deliver.

In response to such love and sacrifice, we hear ourselves called, as his disciples, to overcome evil with good, suffering with wholeness, oppression with justice, and conflict with peace.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 220* *stanzas 1-3*

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Meditation

David Lower

The Passion of Jesus According to Matthew

Prayer for Illumination

The Betrayal and Arrest

Matthew 26:47-56

Anthem

Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs

John Antes
Chancel Choir

Jesus Before the High Priest	Matthew 26:57- 68	
Hymn 218	Ah, Holy Jesus	
The Denial	Matthew 26:69 - 27:3-10	
Confession of Sin	<p>Lord, you are the Light of the World, but the world could not heed or hold you. We find ourselves in this story of human sin. Have mercy upon us for when we have denied you, betrayed you, mocked you, turned away or strayed from you. Help us to change this familiar story of failure into a story of courage, faith and commitment to the kingdom you are making. Amen.</p>	
Hymn 209 <i>stanzas 1-4</i>	My Song Is Love Unknown	
The Trial	Matthew 27:11-31	
Solo	He Was Despised (from Messiah)	G.F. Handel Morgan Potts, alto
The Crucifixion	Matthew 27:32-44	
Anthem	God So Loved the World	John Stainer Chancel Choir
The Death	Matthew 27:45-56	
Anthem	Adoramus Te Christe	Theodore Dubois Chancel Choir
Silence		
The Burial	Matthew 27:57-66	
Anthem	O Sacred Head, Now Wounded	J.S. Bach Chancel Choir
Silence		

Praying Around the Cross

Prayers of the Community with Hymn 227 (Refrain) Jesus, Remember Me

(refrain)

Ever-Present God,
in this story we find our own struggles, and the struggles of our world.
We are amazed that Jesus, nearing his death,
reached out to comfort and empower those dearest to him.
Give us the grace and courage to join them there,
by welcoming all who struggle and grieve
into this new covenant of love and grace.
We pray for all people of faith throughout the world.
May we work together to bring about your reign of peace.

(refrain)

We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barabbas.
May they find true freedom by changing the way they live.
We pray for religious leaders, like Caiaphas, and for government officials, like
Pilate. May they seek truth with humility, govern wisely, serving your causes of
justice and peace.

(refrain)

We pray for those who struggle and wrestle with their faith, like Peter.
Help them know you are with them in their struggle and anguish,
yearning for their comfort and peace.

(refrain)

We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child.
May they know the depth of your tears and the grace of your love and compassion.
We pray for the caregivers of the world like Mary Magdalene and Joseph.
May they be strengthened in their service to those who are struggling or dying.

(refrain)

Amen.

Solo

Were You There?

Lindsey Sanders, soprano

Silent Prayer

*For those who wish to stay,
the sanctuary will be open throughout the evening for personal prayer and meditation.
When you leave this evening, please do so quietly.*