

# Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

April 18, 2025

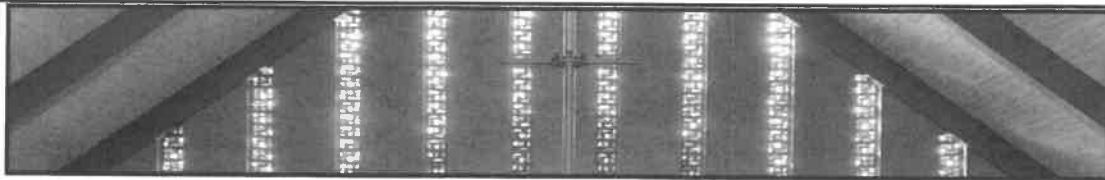


## Good Friday Tenebrae Service

The word “Tenebrae” comes from the Latin word meaning “darkness” or “shadows.” The Tenebrae service is an ancient Christian service during Holy Week that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of the week from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through his betrayal, to his burial.

The service concludes in darkness, oftentimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. The worshipers then leave in silence holding the tension of Christ's death and the brokenness we know so well in our lives and the world, alongside the promise that God will not abandon and will be made known in new life and resurrection.

As we move through the Good Friday service we will hear a variety of speakers reflect on the “seven last words” of Jesus. These words grapple with the human experience of forgiveness, hope, connection, abandonment, longing, faith, and death. We lean in to hear of a God who knows our deepest pains and trust that we will be known and held.



**WELCOME to Valley of Peace.**  
**We are glad you are here.**

We give thanks to God for all people and want all people to feel comfortable participating in worship. If you need any assistance please let our Ushers know. We are happy to offer hearing assistance devices, move chairs to make worship feel more accessible for you, and offer any other support that would be meaningful for you in this space.

All ages are welcome to worship at Valley of Peace and we give thanks for the voices of our littlest ones. If you feel that your little one is wiggly, you are welcome to go with them to stretch their legs in the narthex where there is a small area with books and toys and you can hear the worship service. There are also bags available for you to put toys and books in and bring them into the sanctuary space.

And again, welcome to worship this day. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Interested in becoming a Member? Let Pastor Ashley know by October 5, 2025.

**In Worship Today**

Presider.....Pastor Ashley Osborn  
Pianist/Organist.....Beth Brandt  
Director of Music.....Christine Weatherman  
Opener/Closer.....Craig Franz  
Greeter.....Kathy Boesen  
Ushers.....Jon and Ruth Larson and Barry Terras  
Music Provided By.....Paul Mikelson, Dan Miller, and Flautist Mary Hovden  
Tech.....Chuck Rudolph  
Altar Care.....Linda Franz

A special thank you to our preachers this evening for opening up the Seven Last Words for us.

Words for worship used by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103663.  
Bible readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright 1989.

**Reconciling In Christ Statement**

We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and, by grace, is called a child of God, without exception and regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, age, station in life, or political affiliation.



Valley of Peace Lutheran Church  
April 18, 2025  
6:45 p.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

*Our Blessed Savior Seven Times Spoke*  
By Johann Pachelbel

+ Please  
stand in  
body or  
spirit.

We invite you  
to  
participate in  
worship by  
reading the  
**BOLD** print

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

+OPENING PRAYER

God of all compassion, grateful as we are for the world we know, and the universe beyond our knowing, we praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time and space in the person of Jesus. We look to you as one already present, who meets us in our joy and in the fullness of life, and walks with us into the depths of grief, betrayal, death, and loss.

**Grant that we who come to the cross this night, find it a source of hope in the midst of despair; promise in the midst of a broken world; new life in the midst of ongoing death.**

This night might we know the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

+OPENING HYMN

*O Sacred Head now Wounded* (see insert)

**FIRST WORD**

***“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”***

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:32-38

MEDITATION

Pastor Elizabeth Hermeier

PRAYER

God of forgiveness, caught between the powers of this world and lifted high amidst those who have sinned, you speak. You speak a word of forgiveness and consolation. May we turn our hearts and minds to you and, aware of the ways we have turned from you, from one another, from ourselves, and the gift of your creation, hear your last word that embraces and forgives. **Amen.**

*The first candle is extinguished.*

HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus* (see insert)  
vs. 1

## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

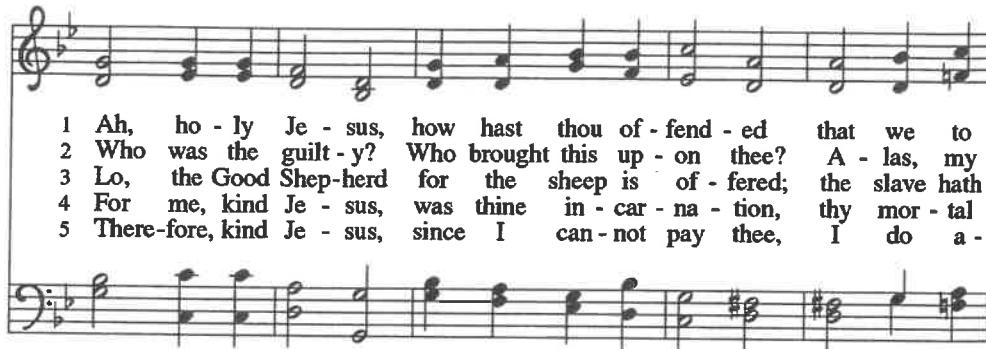
now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

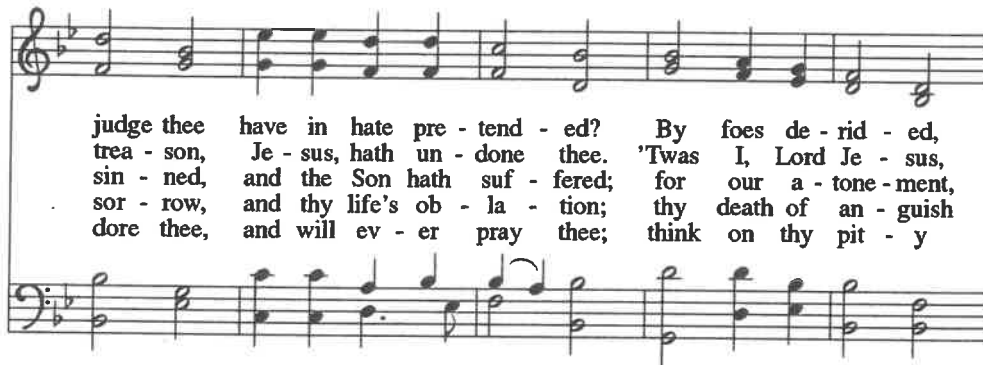
Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 mine, mine was the trans - ges - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite  
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612;  
 arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

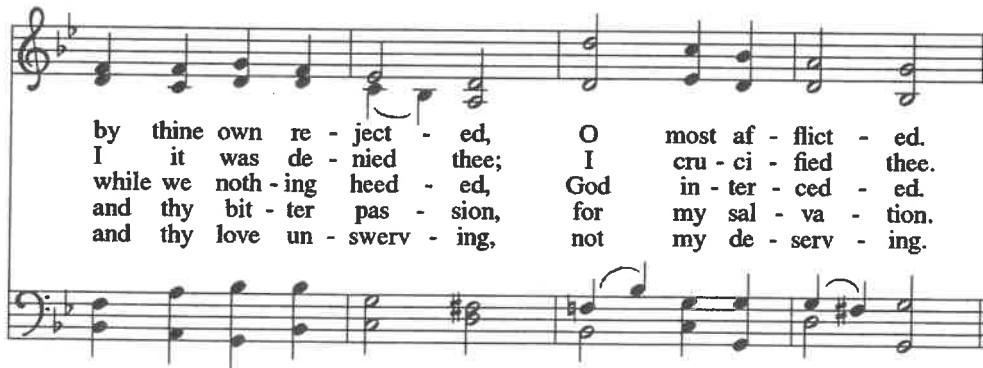
## Ah, Holy Jesus



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.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
 Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## SECOND WORD

*"Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:39-43

MEDITATION

Pastor Laurie Eaton

PRAYER

God of the ages, in coming among us you draw people to yourself—healing, teaching, embracing, and loving beyond all measure. You speak a word of promise that all might be welcomed into your everlasting care. In your living and in your dying you prepare a place for us where we will be fully known. **Amen.**

*The second candle is extinguished.*

HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus* (see insert)  
vs. 2

## THIRD WORD

*"Woman! Behold your Son"*

GOSPEL READING

John 19:25-27

MEDITATION

Darcie Rodman

PRAYER

God of community, you looked into the eyes of a grieving mother and upon the face of a beloved friend and offered connection amidst grief. Draw near to all parents who have lost children, all friends who have lost loved ones and speak a word of comfort. Equip us amidst our tears and longings to walk with one another and live your love. **Amen.**

*The third candle is extinguished.*

HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus* (see insert)  
vs. 3

## FOURTH WORD

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 27:45-46

MEDITATION

Dr. Pace Warfield

PRAYER

God of longing, you have cried for your people and know well the pain of abandonment. You speak a word lodged in the isolation and the hurts of this world. When we experience moments of loneliness and despair, when the troubles of this world overwhelm us, may our voices call to you like the voice from the cross. May we boldly seek your face through our cries and our laments. **Amen.**

*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus* (see insert) vs. 4

## FIFTH WORD

*"I thirst."*

GOSPEL READING

John 19:28-29

MEDITATION

Pastor Wes Syverson

PRAYER

God of living water, you promised springs of water that well up to everlasting life. Yet, you speak as one who knows the pangs of thirst and hunger that fill our world and the lives we live. Draw near to all who hunger for food and those who hunger for your presence; provide for those who thirst for clear water and those who thirst for justice and righteousness. Fill us with all that we need for this day as we walk in your way. **Amen.**

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus* (see insert)  
vs. 5

## SIXTH WORD

*"Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit."*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:44-46

MEDITATION

Pastor Wade Wacholz

PRAYER

God of tender embrace, on the cross you breathed your last and experienced human frailty and mortality. Through your words we are reminded that you hold us in our living, in our dying, and in the life beyond death. When our hour comes, receive us into the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of saints. **Amen.**

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Calvary*

## SEVENTH WORD

*"It is finished."*

GOSPEL READING

John 19:30

MEDITATION

Pastor Ashley Osborn

## SOLEMN REPROACHES

Oh my church, my hands and feet on earth,  
why do you not heed me on the cross?  
Answer me!

From the moment I shaped humanity from the mud  
and gifted you with my own Breath  
I delighted in you, and called you good,  
I invited you to serve my diverse Creation,  
promising that as long as you cared for it,  
it would care for you -  
yet you trample my good works under your feet!  
You consume and consume and consume beyond your need  
even while many of your siblings starve.  
In sentencing your siblings and the land  
to a torturous death,  
you sentence me.

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

Oh my church, my hands and feet on earth,  
why do you not heed me on the cross?  
Answer me!

I choose the children of Israel as my own.  
My covenant with them is eternal;  
My Torah instructs them well on how to love me  
by loving the stranger, the Other, the defenseless.  
Across the centuries you have listened to the story  
of how I was charged by *Roman* powers with sedition,  
died on a *Roman* cross -  
and then went out and blamed "the Jews" for my death!  
You have coerced conversion,  
enacted or enabled hate crimes;  
you have shunned and slandered  
when you ought to have embraced as kin!  
When you reject and persecute my people,  
truly, truly you reject and persecute me.

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



Oh my church, my hands and feet on earth,  
why do you not heed me on the cross?  
Answer me!

I promised blessings to the children of Isaac and Ishmael.  
My dreams for them remain;  
that they might be blessings in the world.  
I am grieved by the violence in the lands of their descendants  
and the church and society's lack of outrage.  
People are starving,  
homes are being destroyed,  
hospitals are being bombed.  
When you turn away and are silent,  
truly you turn away from me and avert your eyes.

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

Oh my church, my hands and feet on earth,  
why do you not heed me on the cross?  
Answer me!

I so loved you, I wrapped my divinity in frail flesh  
so I could share with you  
both joy and pain, feast and famine, friendship and loss;  
I so loved you, I accepted the cross  
to show my solidarity with all  
whom worldly powers crush -  
But still you idolize the very forces  
that brutalized my body unto death!  
When you cherish your guns  
at the expense of children in schools and on the street;  
when you regard a flag above a life  
and let your siblings perish  
on the other side of a border you invented;  
When you wage war against Black and Indigenous peoples  
or look away as they are killed  
you also kill me.

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

Oh my church, my hands and feet on earth,  
why do you not heed me on the cross?  
Answer me!

*Why* do you not help me when I cry out  
in thirst and hunger, or nakedness?  
*Why* do you not welcome me when I come to you as a stranger?  
*Where* are *you* when I am sick, but can't afford care?  
*Where* are *you* when I am abused or suffering in prison?  
Oh my church! *when* will you truly become  
my hands and feet on earth?  
Answer, answer me!

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

Oh my church, my hands and feet on earth,  
why do you not heed me on the cross?  
Answer me!

*Silent reflection. Seventh candle is extinguished.*

And yet... and still... you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Were you There*

*The everlasting flame is removed from the sanctuary.*

*You may leave the sanctuary in silence or remain for prayer and reflection.*

**Our worship continues with Easter Sunday Worship  
this Sunday, April 20 at 10:15 a.m.  
All are welcome.**