

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



**Good Friday
March 29, 2024
12 noon**

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool

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The People of God, Ministers

The Reverend Paul Egensteiner, Bishop

The Reverend Robert Schoepflin, Pastor

The Reverend Dr. Toby Tobias, Pastoral Associate

Ms. Kathy Pucci, Deacon

Mr. Gavin Schwen, Deacon

Dr. Thomas Zatorski, Director of Music

Ms. Lisa Pecchio, Soloist

Ms. Diann Lastihenos, Preschool Director



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS
March 29, 2024
12 noon

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

P: God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

C: **God did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all.**

P: Christ also died for sins once, for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.

C: **Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world**

The Prayer (in unison)

Almighty God, our Father, in this period of meditation and prayer, may our attention be focused on Jesus who gave his life for us and who revealed to us the greatness of your love. We pray that you will guide us during our worship together that we might receive a new sense of appreciation for that which Jesus did for us as he gave his life upon the cross, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen

THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS...Love Intercedes

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

The Scripture Reading

St. Luke 23:32-38

The Meditation on the First Word

Ms. Corlyn Nedwick

The Prayer (spoken by leader)

O most merciful God, we are mindful of our sinfulness.

We know that we have sinned against you, as well as against others, and have failed to follow the example of your son. Grant us your forgiveness and help us to forgive others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen

HYMN

“Were You There”

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

THE WORD OF PARDON...Love Rescues
“Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The Scripture Reading

St. Luke 23:39-43

The Meditation on the Second Word

Dcn. Kathy Pucci

The Prayer (in unison)

Infinite and eternal God, we call upon you in the spirit of penitence. You have granted us the gifts and benefits of life in a greater way than we deserve. Many times we have taken these benefits for granted and have failed to express our appreciation for them. Pardon us for what we have been, and direct what we shall be, through Jesus Christ our savior, Amen.

HYMN

“Were You There”

***Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

THE WORD OF CONCERN...Love creates Community
“Woman, here is your son...here is your mother.”

The Scripture Reading

St. John 19:25-27

The Meditation on the Third Word

Mr. Brian Forberg

The Prayer (in silence)

O God of love, let us not forget the greatness of love shown forth in your son. As we are mindful of his suffering upon the cross, help us to realize anew that in this experience he expressed his love and concern for others, his enemies as well as his loved ones. Guide us as we seek to express our love each day, in the savior's name. Amen

HYMN

“Were You There”

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

***Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.***

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

THE WORD OF LONELINESS...Love obeys God

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The Scripture Reading

St. Matthew 27:45-46

The Meditation on the Fourth Word

Pr. Schoepflin

The Prayer (in unison)

Our heavenly Father, forgive us when we feel that we are completely forgotten. With the unseen presence of Christ dwelling within our hearts, we are never really alone but are bound to you. Sustain us from within and inspire us to seek to live in communion with you, through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

HYMN

“Were You There”

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

THE WORD OF SUFFERING...Love Bears Punishment
“I am thirsty.”

The Scripture Reading

St. John 19:28-29

The Meditation on the Fifth Word

Ms. Doris Meyer

The Prayer (prayed in silence)

Almighty God, we know that your son suffered in more ways than we can ever realize. His agony on the cross was merely the culmination of a life of pain, misery, desertion, ridicule, and criticism. May we remember that it was for us that he was willing to endure all of these things. Help us to understand that he can inspire us in the midst of our suffering and tribulation, through our lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

*O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.*

THE WORD OF VICTORY...Love Offers Sacrifice
“It is finished!”

The Scripture Reading

St. John 19:30

The Prayer (in unison)

Everlasting God, let us never forget that you are god and creator of the universe. Though we may feel that the spirit of evil is winning in the battle of life, help us to remember that the victory has already been won through your son, Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

HYMN 347

“Were You There”

***Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?***

THE WORD OF COMMITMENT...Love is Acceptable to God

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

The Scripture Reading

St. Luke 23:44-46

The Meditation on the Seventh Word

Pr. Tobias

The Prayer (in unison)

Almighty God, you alone give us the breath of life, and you alone can keep alive in us the holy desires you impart. We beg you, for your compassion's sake, to sanctify all our thoughts and endeavors; that we may neither begin an action without a pure intention nor continue it without your blessing. Grant that we may be inspired by your wisdom, upheld by your strength, and in the end be accepted as your faithful servants, through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.

The Our Father

A bell is rung in the traditional 'death toll' – 33 times, one for each year of Jesus' life.

We depart in silence.