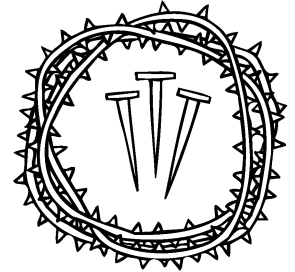


**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**  
**Good Friday – March 29, 2024**  
**Solemn Evening Prayer**

**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**

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**Opening and Prayer of the Day**

Behold, now is the acceptable time;

**now is the day of salvation.**

Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

**that the light of your face may shine on us.**

May your justice shine like the sun;

**and may the poor be lifted up.**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**Thanksgiving for Light**

We give thanks and glory to our holy God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.

**In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night  
you led your people into freedom.**

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

**for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,  
and with all your creatures we give you glory,**

through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. **Amen**

**The Vindication of God's Servant**

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 12:23-36, 44-50** *New Testament for Everyone*

'The time has come,' said Jesus in reply [when some Greeks had wanted to see Jesus]. 'This is the moment for the Son of Man to be glorified. I'm telling you the solemn truth: unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains all by itself. If it dies, though, it will produce lots of fruit. If you love your life, you'll lose it. If you hate your life in this world, you'll keep it for the life of the coming age.

'If anyone serves me, they must follow me. Where I am, my servant will be too. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor them.'

'Now my heart is troubled,' Jesus went on. 'What am I going to say? "Father, save me from this moment?" No! It was because of this that I came to this moment. Father, glorify your name!'

'I have glorified it,' came a voice from heaven, 'and I will glorify it again.'

'That was thunder!' said the crowd, standing there listening.

'No,' said others. 'It was an angel, talking to him.'

'That voice came for your sake, not mine,' replied Jesus. 'Now comes the judgment of this world! Now this world's ruler is going to be thrown out! And when I've been lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.'

He said this in order to point to the kind of death he was going to die.

So the crowd spoke to him again.

'We heard in the law', they said, 'that the Messiah will last forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this "Son of Man"?''

'The light is among you a little while longer,' replied Jesus. 'Keep walking while you have the light, in case the darkness overcomes you. People who walk in the dark don't know where they're going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may be children of light.'

With these words, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

'Anyone who believes in me', shouted Jesus in a loud voice, 'doesn't believe in me, but in the one who sent me! Anyone who sees me sees the one who sent me! I've come into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me won't need to stay in the dark.'

'If anyone hears my words and doesn't keep them, I'm not going to judge them. That wasn't why I came. I came to save the world, not to judge it. Anyone who rejects me and doesn't hold on to my words has a judge. The word which I have spoken will judge them on the last day.'

'I haven't spoken on my own authority. The Father who sent me gave me his own command about what I should say and speak. And I know that his command is the life of the coming age. What I speak, then, is what the Father has told me to speak.'

### **Hymn of the Day      *"Abide with Me"***

- 1     Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
      The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
      When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
      help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
  
- 2     Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
      earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
      change and decay in all around I see;  
      O thou who changest not, abide with me.

- 3 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.
- 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heav'n's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

## Reflection

### Litany

We praise and bless our Savior Jesus Christ,  
**who saves and redeems us from sin and death.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
**and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

May God be merciful and bless us;  
**may the light of God's face shine upon us.**

Let your way be known upon earth,  
**your saving health among all nations.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
**and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**let all the peoples praise you.**

May God give us blessing,  
**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
**and we praise your holy resurrection,  
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

### Evening Prayer

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying,

soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen**

**Lord's Prayer** We pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

**Blessing**

We bless the Anointed One.

**We give our thanks to God.**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen**

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**Easter Sunday:** 6:30 am. – gather in Grace Chapel  
8:45 & 10:15 am. in church

**Pancake Breakfast:** All are invited to celebrate Easter breakfast from 7-11 am. in the fellowship hall on Easter Sunday. Enjoy fresh, hot pancakes with your favorite toppings!

**Easter Break:** The church office and school will be closed 3/28-4/5.