

Good Friday
April 3, 2026



TENEBRAE



**Saint Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA
717-394-9607
www.stmatthewelc.com



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3, 2026 - 12:00 NOON
& 7:00 PM

***Invocation**

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Christ have mercy,

Pastor: Lord, have mercy. We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: In whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may remember with joy the mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

First Station of the Cross: Jesus is Condemned to Death

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke to the crowd: "What do you wish me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So, after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

Leader: God did not spare his own Son,

People: but delivered him up for us all.

***Musician will play one full verse of the hymns before the congregation begins singing the verses*

HYMN:

Ah, Holy Jesus

ELW# 349 (vs. 1&2)

The first light is extinguished.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

People: have mercy and hear us.

SECOND STATION: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to the place called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing.

Leader: The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

People: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Hymn: *God Loved the World* ELW # 323 (vs.1&2)
The second light is extinguished.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

People: Amen

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

People: have mercy and hear us.

THIRD STATION: The Cross is Laid on Simon of Cyrene

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Leader: Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
People: cannot be my disciple.

Hymn: *All to Jesus I Surrender* (vs.1)
All to Jesus I surrender; All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

The third light is extinguished.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

People: Amen

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
People: have mercy and hear us.

FOURTH STATION: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Leader: Those who sowed with tears

People: will reap with songs of joy.

Hymn: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* ELW # 332 (vs. 1&3)

The fourth light is extinguished.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* Teach your church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

People: have mercy and hear us.

FIFTH STATION: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: When they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

Leader: They gave me gall to eat,

People: and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW # 347 (vs. 1&2)

The fifth light is extinguished.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

People: have mercy and hear us.

SIXTH STATION: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader :When they came to the place that is called The Skull,

there they crucified Jesus; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and one on the left. He poured out himself to death, and yet he bore the sin of many.

Leader: They pierce my hands and my feet;

People: they stare and gloat over me.

Hymn: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ELW # 338 (vs. 1&2)

The sixth light is extinguished.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

People: have mercy and hear us.

SEVENTH STATION Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And when Jesus had received the vinegar he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Leader: Christ for us became obedient unto death,

People: even death on a cross.

Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ELW # 803 (vs. 1&2)

The seventh light is extinguished.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* O God, you gave your only Son to

suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever.

People: Amen

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

People: have mercy and hear us.

EIGHTH STATION: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

Leader: You will not abandon me to the grave,

People: nor let your holy one see corruption.

Hymn: Were You There ELW # 353 (vs. 1&5)

Lights are dimmed.

Pastor: *Let us pray.* O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever.

People: Amen

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

People: have mercy and hear us.

Pastor: Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.

People: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Silence for Reflection

***The Tolling of the Bell**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Noon Worship Leaders

Readers: Barb Eshbach & Matthew Kolb

Musician: Susan Feldmann

7pm Worship Leaders

Readers: Roxanne Koch & Neely Frye

Musician: Ann Hossler

At the end of the service you are encouraged to remain in the church for prayer, meditation and adoration of Christ, the crucified.

This is an ancient and venerable custom of the Church to physically express one's love of the crucified Jesus by coming forward to offer a personal expression of thankful adoration.

This has traditionally taken a variety of forms: kneeling near the cross for prayer, kissing or touching the wood of the cross, a profound bow or another personal expression. If you choose not to partake in the adoration of the cross, you may leave at any time.

Please depart in silence.

