

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

**LUKE 23:34, KJV**

*GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE OF  
DARKNESS  
April 7, 2023*

# GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE OF DARKNESS

## OVERALL THEME: PROMISED TREASURES THE OLD RUGGED, WOODEN CROSS

April 7, 2023

**AS WE GATHER** – Since the altar is stripped and the paraments are gone, the wood of many altars, lecterns, and pulpits are fully exposed. Wood reminds you what took place on the tree of the cross, where your Lord once died. Jesus' cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened. We reflect upon these familiar words of "The Old Rugged Cross" penned by American composer George Bennard in 1912: *"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross And exchange it some day for a crown."*

(Congregation Enters in Complete Silence)

### CALL TO WORSHIP "Were You There"

LSB 456

(v. 1 Choir, v. 2-3 Cong.)



2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you  
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...  
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: Public domain

stand

## INVOCATION (Spoken by the Pastor)

### PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

sit

## THEME HYMN “One House Abides Unending” (See Insert)

## HOMILY “The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross”

## HYMN “The Old Rugged Cross” (See insert)

SGBK 81

## SERVICE OF DARKNESS

This service of darkness is a version of the ancient office of Tenebrae, traditionally used as worship during the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice--to remind us that we deserve to live in darkness (without God), and Christ went into that darkness for us. We begin our service in silence and end it in darkness.

The six sets of altar candles will gradually be extinguished to signify the darkness that covered the earth when Christ hung on the cross and our subsequent flight from Jesus as did His disciples. The central candle symbolizes our Savior and is not extinguished but is carried out symbolizing the death of Christ. This ceremony seems to tell us of the apparent victory of the powers of darkness over our Lord in His

Passion. However, at the sound of the sharp noises, we are reminded that the meaning of the Cross has been fulfilled and in our darkness returns that one light of hope, the Light of Christ who rises again to live and reign to all eternity. The powers of confusion, noise and darkness of hell are overtaken.

## **INTROIT**

Isaiah 53:1-6

P: Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

**C: For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.**

P: He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

**C: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

P: But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.

**C: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to His own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

## **THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM**

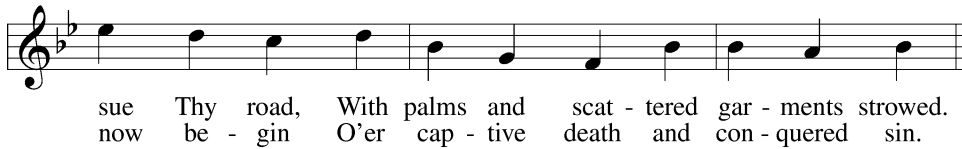
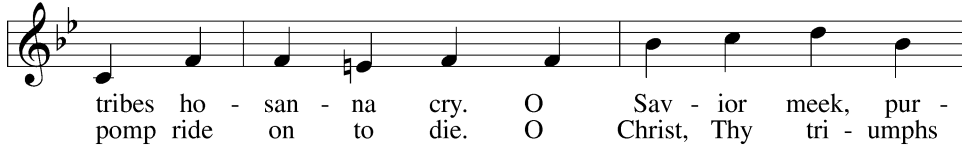
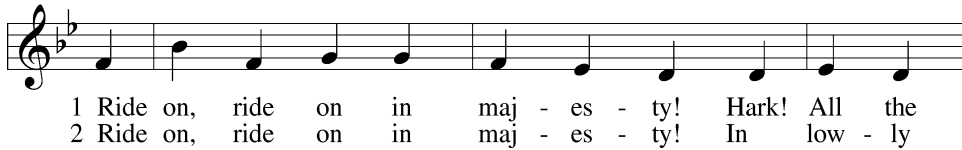
Mark 11:1-4;7-10

**Narrator:** And they drew near to Jerusalem, at the Mount of Olives; He sent two of His disciples. They went away, and found a colt tied and they untied it. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on the road and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. Those who went before and those who followed cried out:

**C: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed be the kingdom of our Father, David, that is coming. Hosanna in the Highest!**

# HYMN "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

LSB 441 st. 1 & 2



Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYER

**P:** Almighty God, our Father, help us to be mindful of those events that occurred in the life of Jesus during that last week in Jerusalem. As we become aware of the manner in which the disciples, the members of the crowd and others failed Him, we pray that You will quicken our hearts that we might not be guilty of the same sin today. Forgive us for those occasions when we have failed to exert a strong witness for You and guide us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE DARKNESS OF MISUNDERSTANDING (In the Temple)

**Narrator:** And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple. And He taught and said to them:

**Jesus:** *Is it not written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you made it a den of robbers."*

**Narrator:** The Chief Priests and Scribes heard it and sought a way to destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the multitude was astonished at His teaching. Then a voice came from heaven. The crowd standing by heard it and said it thundered. Jesus Answered:

**Jesus:** *This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself.*

**Narrator:** He said this to show what death He was to die. The crowd answered Him:

**C:** **We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is the Son of Man?**

**Jesus:** *The Light is with you a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtakes you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.*

~ **First Candle is Extinguished** ~

**THE DARKNESS OF BETRAYAL** Matthew 26:20-28

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup> And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup> He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me." <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup> Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." <sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

~ **Second Candle is Extinguished** ~

**CHOIR** "How Beautiful"

## **THE DARKNESS OF TEMPTATION**

Matthew 26:30-45

<sup>30</sup> And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup> Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into tempta-tion. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

~ Third Candle is Extinguished ~

## **THE DARKNESS OF INJUSTICE**

Mark 14:53-64; 15:1-5

<sup>53</sup> And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. <sup>54</sup> And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against

Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. <sup>56</sup> For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup> And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup> “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” <sup>59</sup> Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup> And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” <sup>61</sup> But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” <sup>63</sup> And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? <sup>64</sup> You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. 15:1 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” <sup>3</sup> And the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” <sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. E: This is the Word of the Lord.

### ~ Fourth Candle is Extinguished ~

#### THE DARKNESS OF DENIAL

Mark 14:66-72

<sup>66</sup> And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, <sup>67</sup> and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” <sup>68</sup> But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. <sup>69</sup> And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” <sup>70</sup> But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” <sup>71</sup> But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” <sup>72</sup> And immediately



the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

## ~ Fifth Candle Extinguished ~

### THE DARKNESS OF REJECTION

Luke 23:13-24

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him.

<sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— <sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.

<sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

### CHOIR “The One Who Bears My Shame”

### THE DARKNESS OF CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27:33-49

<sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup> And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup> Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down

from the cross.” <sup>41</sup> So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” <sup>44</sup> And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. <sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>47</sup> And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” <sup>48</sup> And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**CHOIR** “The power of the Cross”

## **THE DARKNESS OF DEATH**

Luke 23:44-46

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

## **THE DARKNESS OF BURIAL**

John 19:31-42

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup> He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> For these things took place that

the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."  
<sup>37</sup> And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."  
<sup>38</sup> After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.  
<sup>39</sup> Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.  
<sup>40</sup> So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.  
<sup>41</sup> Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.  
<sup>42</sup> So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

## ~ Sixth Candle Extinguished ~

stand

### BIDDING PRAYER

E/A: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

E/A: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the church, and for all the people of God:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your

holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

E/A: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

P: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, our President; the Congress of the United States; our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

E/A: Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, grant health to the sick, and a safe journey to all who travel:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

E/A: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

E/A: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:  
P: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

E/A: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:  
P: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

E/A: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:  
P: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** (Spoken by the Pastor)

**MEDITATION OF HOPE**   **Choir:** “In Christ Alone”

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As the Christ candle exits, the choir will sing the hymn “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”. Please leave in silence. Your offering will be received at the door as you depart. The peace of The Lord be with you as you leave remembering His death. Return on Easter morning to celebrate and proclaim His resurrection!

## ***THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST***

*"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."*

*"VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE, TODAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN  
PARADISE."*

*"WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON! BEHOLD THY MOTHER!"*

*"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"*

*"I THIRST."*

*"IT IS FINISHED."*

*"FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT."*

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## **EASTER WEEKEND WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **EASTER SATURDAY – NO WORSHIP SERVICE**

**EASTER SUNDAY – SUNRISE** Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 A.M.

THEME: "The Oil of Joy & Gladness"

### **EASTER BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT FOLLOWING SUNRISE SERVICE**

**EASTER SUNDAY – FESTIVAL** Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M.

THEME: "The Land of Milk & Honey"

**Welcome to Peace** in the name of the Risen Savior!

***We request that visitors register*** by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

***Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins*** are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

***A Mother's Room is available*** for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.

**Peace Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

1228 S Park Ave.  
Neenah, WI 54956  
920-725-0510

Ricky P. Schroeder, Pastor  
pastor@peaceneenah.com  
Josiah Fitch, Associate Pastor  
assocpastor@peaceneenah.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School (Sept. –May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: [www.peaceneenah.com](http://www.peaceneenah.com)  
You tube: Peace Neenah

