

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 10, 2020 7 p.m.

The service of Tenebrae—or darkness—is used to emphasize the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's suffering. Darkness gradually overtakes the light as we journey closer to the death of Jesus as a reminder of the spiritual darkness that would exist had the Light not come into the world. While most of the candles are extinguished, the Christ candle remains lit – a symbol of hope in the darkness. The Christ candle is later removed, signifying the death and burial of Jesus. A loud sound known as the Strepitus follows as the tomb is closed and sealed.

Yet despite the darkness of Good Friday, hope remains. The Christ candle returns at the end of the service, pointing to the triumph that would come on Easter Sunday. We leave in silence, contemplating the cost of our sins, but confident in the forgiveness we receive in Jesus.

Prelude

Invocation

Leader In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Litany of Confession

Leader O God our Father, this day is filled with darkness.

People **But we need to remember. Help us remember.**

Leader Today we behold Your Son – despised and rejected by men;

People **He was a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief.**

Leader We need to ponder again the terrible suffering of Jesus.

People **We know that it is our guilt that has done this to Him.**

Leader Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

People **He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.**

Leader With His stripes we are healed;

People **Yet, 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.**

Hymn *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain* *LSB Hymnal 435, verses 1-3*

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

Confession and Absolution

Leader We need to confess our sins to our loving Father. Merciful Father,

People **Look with mercy on us sinners. For us our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and sacrificed. Yet we have failed in love toward You and others, and continue to go astray. We confess that we are full of sin and sincerely repent of all our transgressions. On this Good Friday, Holy Father, forgive our sin and fill us with a new sense of peace. We pray in the name of Jesus, our loving Redeemer. Amen.**

Leader God, our Heavenly Father, does have compassion on us. He gave us His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. *Ephesians 1:7-8* Be at peace; we are set free.

People **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Verse of Response *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain* LSB Hymnal 435, verse 4

They that drink shall live forever;

'Tis a soul-renewing flood.

God is faithful; God will never

Break His covenant of blood,

Signed when our Redeemer died,

Sealed when He was glorified.

Gospel Reading

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: John 19:17-30

People **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

Message *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 1

Leader When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals, one on His right, the other at His left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” *Luke 23:33-34*

People **Grant us grace, dear Jesus, to deny temptations to condemn, to be vindicated, to seek revenge — rather, help us pray for those who wrong us.** (*Silence while candle is extinguished*)

Hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* LSB Hymnal 425

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| <p>1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.</p> <p>2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.</p> | <p>3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?</p> <p>4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!</p> |
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The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 2

Leader Then the criminal on the cross said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.” *Luke 23:42-43*

People **We humbly praise Your name, dear Jesus, for the free gift of salvation. Let us be more and more aware that none of us deserve this grace.** (*Silence while candle is extinguished*)

Lord I Need You Solo by Dominic Florio

*By Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher.
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The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 3

Leader When Jesus saw His mother near the cross, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. *John 19:25-27*

People **We thank You, Lord, for the dear ones You have given us, those who daily care — family, friends, and those in this faith community.** (*Silence while candle is extinguished*)

Go to Dark Gethsemane Hymnal 436

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| <p>1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.</p> <p>2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.</p> | <p>3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.</p> <p>4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.</p> |
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The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 4

Leader From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” *Matthew 27:45-46*

People **Lord Jesus, in our dark nights of the soul, when we feel abandoned, give us a faith that still cries out, “My God!”** *(Silence while candle is extinguished)*

Video: Psalm 22

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken *LSB Hymnal 439, verses 1, 2, and 5*

- 1 O dearest Jesus, what law have You broken
That such sharp sentence should on You be spoken?
Of what great crime have You to make confession,
What dark transgression?
- 2 They crown Your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge You;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge You;
They give You gall to drink, they still decry You;
They crucify You.
- 5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed.

The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 5

Leader Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” *John 19:28*

People **Lord Jesus, this cry of human need reminds us that You understand all our needs. For this we give You thanks.** *(Silence while candle is extinguished)*

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded *LSB Hymnal 450, verses 1, 3, 5, and 7*

- 1 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.
- 3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.
- 5 What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.
- 7 Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 6

Leader When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." *John 19:30*

People **O God, may we, in life, daily give ourselves to You, so that, also in death, we may calmly surrender our lives into Your keeping.** *(Silence while candle is extinguished)*

Were You There *LSB Hymnal 456, verses 1-3*

1 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?

2 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?

3 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 Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 7

Leader It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun had stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." When He had said this, He breathed His last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Luke 23:44-46

People **God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.** *John 3:16 (Silence while candle is extinguished)*

The Closing Collect

Leader Father, help us to be ever aware of those events that caused Jesus to be taken to the cross. As we become mindful of those who confronted Him with betrayal, denial, rejection, injustice, torture, ridicule, and mockery, we realize that these same traits are found also in our own lives. Help us, on this Good Friday, to re-examine our lives. As we reflect upon the lives of those who failed our Savior, may we recognize that it was our sin that crucified Him. Grant us forgiveness and cleanse our lives of sin. Hold us in Your hands that we might more clearly see the hands of love in the hands of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

People 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. 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.

Removal of the Christ Candle

The Strepitus

Christ Candle Returns

*Unless noted otherwise, scripture passage came from the English Standard Version.
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Special thanks to our Cantor Lindsay Gugliuzza.