

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 2, 2021 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 *Adagio for Strings (Agnus Dei)* By Samuel Barber String Quintet

(Stand)

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 Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Leader Come, let us 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. *(Silence for personal confession)*

Leader God, our Heavenly Father, does have compassion on us. He gave us His only Son to be the final 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.

(Sit)

The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part I

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* *(Silence while candle is extinguished)*

Video *Forgive*

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*
(Silence while candle is extinguished)

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary Hymnal 423 Cantor, Kantorei, and Cello

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,
 Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
 Fountain in life's desert dreary,
 Savior from the world above:
 Often have Your eyes, offended,
 Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
 Yet upon the cross extended,
 You have borne the pain of all.</p> | <p>3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
 With more fervent love for You;
 May our eyes be ever turning
 To behold Your cross anew
 Till in glory, parted never
 From the blessed Savior's side,
 Graven in our hearts forever,
 Dwell the cross, the Crucified.
 <i>Text: Public domain</i></p> |
| <p>2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
 Breathing no repentant vow,
 Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
 See Your thorn-encircled brow?
 Yet Your sinless death has brought us
 Life eternal, peace, and rest;
 Only what Your grace has taught us
 Calms the sinner's deep distress.</p> | |

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*
(Silence while candle is extinguished)

Sermon

(Stand)

Hymn Jesus, in Your Dying Woes LSB Hymnal 447, verses 7-9



7 Je - sus, lov - ing to the end Her whose heart Your
 8 May we in Your sor - rows share, For Your sake all
 9 May we all Your loved ones be, All one ho - ly



sor - rows rend, And Your dear - est hu - man friend:
 per - il dare, And en - joy Your ten - der care:
 fam - i - ly, Lov - ing, since Your love we see:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
 Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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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* (Silence while candle is extinguished)

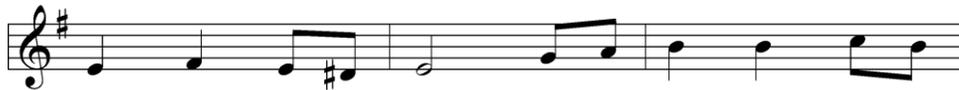
Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted LSB Hymnal 451, verses 1-3



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, See Him dy-ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev-er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light-ly Nor sup-pose the e-vil



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis-own-ing, Foes in-
great Here may view its na-ture right-ly, Here its



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed
sult-ing His dis-tress; Man-y hands were raised to
guilt may es-ti-mate. Mark the sac-ri-fice ap-



Proph-et, Da-vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in-ter-vene to save; But the
point-ed, See who bears the aw-ful load; 'Tis the



see suf-fi-cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith-ful Word.
deep-est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus-tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a-noint-ed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Tune and text: Public domain

(Sit)

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* (Silence while candle is extinguished)

Video *The Fifth Cup*

The Seven Last Words of Christ: Part 6

Leader When He had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” *John 19:30*
(Silence while candle is extinguished)

Solo *Nothing But the Blood* Cantor and String Quartet

Sermon

(Stand)

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)

Go to Dark Gethsemane LSB Hymnal 436, verses 1-3



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

(Sit)

Removal of the Christ Candle

The Strepitus

Christ Candle Returns *Adagio for Strings* By Samuel Barber *String Quintet*

Unless noted otherwise, scripture passage came from the English Standard Version.

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Special thanks to our Cantor Scott Stoberl

String Quintet: Paul-Joseph Struckmann, Mary Kate Ells, Alicia Struckmann, Bethany Erhardt, Sam Gugliuzza, and Matt Ells

Kantorei: Martha Miller, Kaitlin Werth, Scott Stoberl, Dean Brown

Cellist: Bethany Erhardt