



Good Friday is the most solemn day in the Church Year. On this day we pause to remember our Lord's death on the cross. We remember that it was for our sins that He suffered and died.

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service called Tenebrae, in the last days of Holy Week. The word means "darkness."

It comes from the ceremony, carried out in this service, of extinguishing the candles in the "*Tenebrae Hearse*," or sevenfold candle stand, one by one.

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GOOD FRIDAY

Confession at the Cross

P: On this Good Friday, we not only enter this place of worship, but in mind and spirit we go to that place called Calvary – to kneel before the cross.

C: We have come because we need the renewal of our faith.

P: Jesus said, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”*

C: Forgive us Lord, for doing what we should not do and for not doing what we should do.

P: Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

C: Forgive us Lord, for seeking first the things of this world.; for building our own kingdoms; for our materialism and misplaced priorities; for neglecting the kingdom you came to bestow.

P: Jesus said, *“Dear woman, here is your son... here is your mother.”*

C: Forgive us Lord, for neglecting those in need; for ignoring the poor and helpless and hurting; for scorning your call to servanthood.

P: Jesus said, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

C: Forgive us Lord, for the times that we have turned our backs on Your Word; the times when we have gone through trial and suspected that you weren't there; the times when we weren't there to help and comfort the lonely.

P: Jesus said, *“I am thirsty.”*

C: Forgive us Lord, when we have not thirsted for righteousness and peace and hope and joy and kindness; neglecting the fruitful life that the Spirit would bestow.

P: Jesus said, *“It is finished.”*

C: Forgive us Lord, when we have doubted your grace and have tried to add to our salvation by depending on ourselves and what we can do to gain your favor.

P: Jesus said, *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*

C: Forgive us Lord, for not commending our past failures to your mercy, our present situation to your governance, and our futures to your care. Lord, have mercy on us sinners who in our inner being still delight in your law. Deliver us from this twisted state.

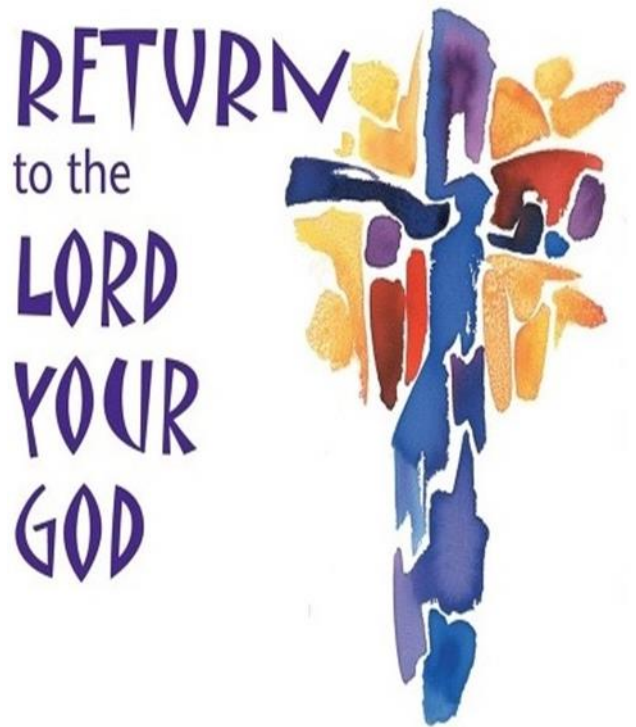
[Silence for personal confession]

P: As a called and ordained servant, upon your confession this evening, I proclaim God's grace to you. You are not condemned; you are justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. You have been set free from the law of sin and death. Set your mind on what the Spirit desires. This will give you life and peace and renew your faith.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**



Prayer

P: Deepen in us, O God, our sorrow. So often, we have watched and followed you from a distance. Open our eyes to see you dying innocent for us who are so full of fault. Grant that we may be led to put away those sins which make us unworthy to be numbered among your disciples. BY your redeeming love and saving grace, let the shadow of your cross fall upon our lives to make us, from this day forward, ever mindful of your great and saving love for us.

C: Amen.

Message

...Jesus on Trial

The Execution

Sentences: 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 pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

C: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The Death and Burial of Jesus and the Tenebrae

The Way to the Cross and the Crucifixion

Reading: Luke 23:26-34a
(The extinguishing of the first candle)

They Cast Lots for His Garments

Reading: John 19:19-24
(The extinguishing of the second candle)

Jesus is Mocked

Reading: Matthew 27:39-44
(The extinguishing of the third candle)

The Death of Jesus

Reading: Matthew 27:45-54
(The extinguishing of the fourth candle)

His Side is Pierced

Reading: John 19:31-37
(The extinguishing of the fifth candle)

Jesus is Buried

Reading: John 19:38-42
(The extinguishing of the sixth candle)

The Tenebrae

Reading: John 14:1-3

This service continues Easter morning...