



HIS FINAL STEPS LED TO THE PLACE OF THE SKULL

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 7, 2023, 6:30 P.M.



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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for our Good Friday service this evening! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to hear His holy and powerful Word and celebrate His life-giving Sacraments, offering our prayers and praises as He strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

TONIGHT'S FOCUS

Tonight we follow Jesus as His final steps led to the Place of the Skull. Darkness descended on the world as our heavenly Father draped His creation in the darkness of mourning. The Light of the world, the great Prince of the heavenly Kingdom was dying. Though guiltless, He was tortured and cursed. Though innocent, He died among criminals. Who can call this day "good"? Those who know the truth of the cross! The cross is our victory! Christ, the world's Redeemer, as a victim won the day! Because our innocent Savior died for us—"and by His stripes we are healed."

SERVICE NOTES

If you need any assistance, please ask any of our ushers for help. In inclement weather, or if walking from your car is difficult, please make use of the carport. The ushers will gladly park and/or retrieve your car for you if needed.

If you are a visitor with us today, please sign the Guest Book before you leave today (the red binder in the front of church). If you would like to learn more about our church or are interested in church membership, please speak with Pastor Van Kampen.

If you have small children, please note that there is a Parents' Room at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily calm a child. From the Parents' Room you can still see, hear, and participate in the worship service.

For your convenience tonight's order of service is printed on the following pages. The order of service is a Tenebrae service, based on the seven words Jesus spoke from the cross.

Holy Communion: We hold to the ancient, biblical practice of "close communion," communing only confirmed members of our church or churches of our fellowship (ELS and WELS). Guests, please speak with the pastor prior to the service if you wish to commune. Thank you for your courteous respect of our beliefs and practices.

The Service of Seven Words

With Holy Communion

CALL TO WORSHIP

The minister enters in silence, after the chimes have tolled. The Tenebrae candles are lit during the introduction to the hymn.

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now | 140 v. 1, 3, 5

Please stand.

LESSON

ISAIAH 52:13 – 53:12

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man,
And His form more than the sons of men; ¹⁵ So shall He sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see,
And what they had not heard they shall consider.

^{53:1} Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground.
He has no form or comeliness;

And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

⁶ 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.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,

And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.

When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed,
He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,

And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,

Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors,

And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

M: Let us pray:

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to Him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

You may be seated.

THE FIRST WORD – “Father, Forgive Them” (Luke 23:26-34)

Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. ²⁷ And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him.

²⁸ But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ "For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' ³⁰ "Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' ³¹ "For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"

³² There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. ³³ And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.**" And they divided His garments and cast lots.

SERMON – Luke 23:26-33

His Final Steps Led Him to the Place of the Skull

HYMN

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth | 142 v. 1-3

The first Tenebrae candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

THE SECOND WORD – “*You Will Be with Me in Paradise*” (Luke 23:38-43)

And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "**Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**"

HYMN

Behold, the Lamb of God | 165 v. 1-2

The second Tenebrae candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

THE THIRD WORD – “*Behold Your Son!... Behold Your Mother!*” (John 19:25-27)

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "**Woman, behold your son!**" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "**Behold your mother!**" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

HYMN

Upon the Cross Extended | 171 v.1, 4, 9

The third Tenebrae candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

THE FOURTH WORD –

“My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:45-49)

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "**Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?**" that is, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**" ⁴⁷ Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

HYMN

O Darkest Woe | 167 v. 1-4, 6

The fourth Tenebrae candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

THE FIFTH WORD – ***“I Thirst” (John 19:28,29)***

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "**I thirst!**" ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded | 172 v. 1

The fifth Tenebrae candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

THE SIXTH WORD – ***“It Is Finished!” (John 19:30)***

M: So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said,

C: It is finished!

CHOIR

What Wondrous Love Is This?

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded | 172 v. 7, 10

The sixth Tenebrae candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE BIDDING PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

A: Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to Your Word so that in every adversity we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, You rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give Your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, You make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, You have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that Your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to Your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, Your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are Your very own, that we may join together around Your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving You, whose name we bear. We ask that You would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in Your love, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you sent Your Son into the world to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for Your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in Your grace, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words He himself has taught us.

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

We hold to the ancient, biblical practice of "close communion." This means that we commune only confirmed members of our church or churches of our fellowship (ELS and WELS). If you are a guest who is interested in communing, please speak with the pastor prior to the service. Thank you for your courteous respect of our beliefs and practices.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."



After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

THE LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

You may be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution of the sacrament, communicants may come forward at the direction of the ushers.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken? | 143

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

M: Let us pray:

We thank You, Lord God the Father, that You have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have borne in Your sacred body all our sins, and by Your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank You, Lord, the Holy Spirit, that You have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation, except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. O God, grant us Your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit, that, in the power of our Redeemer's death, we may day by day put off sin, and never forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, until we see Him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ's name.

C: Amen.

You may be seated.

THE SEVENTH WORD –

“Father, into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit” (Luke 23:33-46)

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

³⁵ And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

³⁶ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." ³⁸ And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

⁴⁴ Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ⁴⁵ Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "**Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'**" Having said this, He breathed His last.

The seventh Tenebrae candle is carried from the chancel.

Silence for meditation.

A loud noise (strepitus) representing the rending of Christ's tomb is heard, and the seventh candle is returned to burn in the chancel.

CLOSING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

On my heart imprint Thine image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures,
Have no pow'r Thee to efface.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation.

The minister exits the chancel.

You may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Easter Festival Service (Comm.) – April 9, 8:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast will be served
following the Easter Festival
Service.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Minister

Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen

Organist

Deb Meyer

Elder on Duty

Rod Meves

Altar Guild

Donna Carter & Linda Koch