

Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness
Good Friday
March 29, 2024

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church -- Huron, South Dakota

- ✘ **The Tenebrae Service** is a continuation of the Maundy Thursday Service and, as such, there will be no Pre-Service Music or Invocation. As we left the church in silence last evening, our service now begins in silence.
- ✘ **The Latin word "Tenebrae"** means "darkness." The church will be darkened so that when the "Christ Candle" is removed, the church will be entirely in darkness. The darkness impresses upon us the terrible reality of our sin which caused our Savior to die for us. It also reminds us of the spiritual darkness that would exist had the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, not come.
- ✘ **The Removal of the Christ Candle** near the close of the service signifies Christ's death and burial. With its return, the service ends not in total darkness but with the light symbolizing the hope of the resurrection.
- ✘ **The "Streptitus"** (*Latin for "great noise"*), made by the closing of the Bible (which is opened to Isaiah 53 foretelling Jesus' suffering and death), carries a double meaning. It symbolizes the earthquake that followed Jesus' death, but it also acknowledges that with the sealed tomb, the meaning of the cross is fulfilled: Christ's sacrifice is complete.
- ✘ **The Tenebrae Service ends in silence.** Following the service the worshipers are asked to remain silent as they leave the church, pondering the deep meaning of Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins and maintaining the somber spirit of the worship.
- ✘ **The Offering** will be received at the doors as you leave. There will be no greeting following the worship service.

The Silent Procession of the Cross

Welcome

Prayer

P: Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Hymn # 440 – “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

1 Jesus, I will ponder now
 On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
 For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
 May the image cherish
Of Your suff’ring, pain, and death
 That I may not perish.

2 Make me see Your great distress,
 Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
 And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
 Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
 Who with thorns had crowned You.

3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
 Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
 And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
 Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
 Of Your crucifixion.

4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?

5 If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm;
Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son,
God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Public domain

The Psalm

Selected Verses from Psalm 22

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

C: Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

P: O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

C: By night, and am not silent.

P: Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;

C: You are the praise of Israel.

P: I am a worm and not a man,

C: Scorned by men and despised by the people.

P: All who see me mock me;

C: They hurl insults, shaking their heads:

P: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

C: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

P: Do not be far from me,

C: For trouble is near and there is no one to help.

P: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

C: My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

P: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,

C: They have pierced my hands and my feet.

P: I can count all my bones;

C: People stare and gloat over me.

P: They divide my garments among them

C: And cast lots for my clothing.

P: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,

C: And all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

P: Future generations will be told about the Lord.

C: They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: And to the Holy Spirit;

P: As it was in the beginning,

C: Is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The First Lesson: Jesus is Condemned to Death

The Prophecy

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he opened not his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he opened not his mouth.

The Fulfillment

John 19:13-16

So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus,

The Hymn # 439 (St. 1, 4) – “O Dearest Jesus”

- 1 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?

- 4 What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him.

Text: Public domain

(The first candle is extinguished.)

The Second Lesson: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

The Prophecy

Isaiah 53:4

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

The Fulfillment

John 19:17

and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

The Hymn # 450 (St. 1) – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

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.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004860

(The second candle is extinguished.)

The Third Lesson: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

The Prophecy

Psalm 22:16-18

For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

The Fulfillment

John 19:23-24

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,

Hymn # 450 (St. 2-3) – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

- 2 How pale Thou art with anguish,
 With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
 That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
 Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
 Thy strength, in this sad strife.
- 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.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004860

(The third candle is extinguished.)

The Fourth Lesson: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

The Prophecy

Isaiah 53:12b

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

The Fulfillment

Luke 23:33-34a

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Hymn # 450 (St. 4-5) – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

4 My Shepherd, now receive me;
My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
To heav'nly joys above.

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.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004860

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

The Fifth Lesson: Jesus Is Mocked by the People

The Prophecy

Psalm 22:7-8

All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:39-43

And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads 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.” So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, “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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'”

Hymn # 451 – “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

Text: Public domain

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

The Sixth Lesson: Jesus Dies on the Cross

The Prophecy

Isaiah 53:4-5,8

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

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.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

Psalm 31:5

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

The Fulfillment

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 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.

The Message

Luke 23:46 – "Jesus' Last Word from the Cross"

Hymn # 447 (Seventh Word) – "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes"

19 Jesus, all Your labor vast,
All Your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Your soul at last:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

20 When the death shades round us low'r,
Guard us from the tempter's pow'r,
Keep us in that trial hour:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

21 May Your life and death supply
Grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Public domain

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

The Seventh Lesson: Jesus Is Laid in the Sepulcher

The Prophecy Isaiah 53:9-10a

And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

The Fulfillment John 19:38-42

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. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 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. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Hymn# 450 (St. 6-7) – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

- 6 My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!
- 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.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004860

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

The Lord's Prayer (*Spoken softly by 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.**

The Removal of the Christ Candle (*Signifies Christ's death and burial*)

The Strepitus (*Acknowledges that with the sealed tomb, the prophecies of the Savior's passion and the meaning of the cross are fulfilled: Christ's sacrifice is complete.*)

The Return of the Christ Candle (*Although Christ's body lies in the tomb, the light reminds us of the hope of the resurrection.*)

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn Page 198 – “Agnus Dei”

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Amen.

Depart in Silence.

Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 a.m.

Easter Festival Services with Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by

Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Hymns from Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.