

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?

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 READING

The Burial

St. Mark 15:42-47

(The Christ Candle is removed & The Tomb is sealed)

THE RESPONSE

P: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God of my salvation. [My] sacrifice is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God You will not despise.

+ Now there is total darkness and utter silence for a few moments.

+ Then we whisper together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(The Christ Candle is returned)

+ There is no blessing--the service concludes on Easter Day!

WE LEAVE IN ABSOLUTE SILENCE and IN NEAR DARKNESS as we wait for the **Resurrection Victory Celebration**, the dawning of a new day and the beginning of a new Jerusalem for God's Kingdom.

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April 2, 2021 **Good Friday-The Tenebrae Service**

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark

God is Dead

TENEBRAE means "darkness" - - - This service will see the gradual darkening of all the lights in the sanctuary. Only the sanctuary lamp will remain, and it too will be hidden for a brief moment. This darkness is fitting, as on Good Friday God is dead. Not figuratively. Literally. Tonight, we let that truth sink deep into our repentant hearts.

But God does not remain dead, so at the end of the service, the sanctuary lamp is returned to remind us that the Kingdom of God has come to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we look forward to Easter, the celebration of the resurrection and the actual conclusion of this worship service on Sunday at 7am. There is also a celebration service at 10am on Sunday. Easter Breakfast is served from 8-9:30am, and an Easter egg hunt will take place at 9am.

In order to maintain the dramatic impact of this remembrance, please observe the following:

- + read the notes at the end of the service first.
- + your sincere and meditative attention is requested for each reading. After a pause, a response from Psalm 51 and/or Isaiah 53 follows, which in turn is followed by a musical selection.
- + avoid rustling papers; during the readings, give undivided attention to the Scriptures.
- + please leave in SILENCE and DARKNESS after the service remembering that Light which lingers and casts hope through the gloom of Good Friday.
- + it is suggested that you return home in silence after this service. You may find it helpful for your devotion to avoid television and other activities that distract from a quiet ending to this day and its message.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, RINGING OF THE BELL, ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAND
INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: **Righteous and having salvation.**

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: **And ruling from sea to sea—**

P: To the ends of the earth!

C: **God's Kingdom comes—**

P: To us!

C: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to behold with reverence the agony of your rejection, the pain of your condemnation, and the horror of your crucifixion.

C: **Bring us to the places you walked and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.**

P: Stay with us, Lord, as we witness your suffering and listen to your last words of love.

C: **As we approach Calvary let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against your holy commandments.**

P: Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from you in our thinking, speaking and doing.

C: **We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.**

P: We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

C: **O God, we have tried to hide from you and from one another.**

P: We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.

C: **We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or the frailty of our nature or place the blame on other people.**

P: We can only say, "For the sake of Jesus, God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

THE SONG

"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

LSB #434:1

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,

Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:

Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

THE READING

God Is Dead

St. Mark 15:33-37

P: Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer...Therefore, [He] will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong.

C: **because He poured out His life to death, and was numbered with the transgressors.**

THE HYMN

"O Darkest Woe"

LSB #448:2, 5, 7

O sorrow dread! Our God is dead,

Upon the cross extended.

There His love enlivened us As His life was ended.

Such innocence! His countenance

A fount of faith undying!

Worlds on worlds cannot contain Grief at Him here lying.

O Jesus Christ, Who sacrificed

Thy life for lifeless mortals:

Be my life in death and bring Me to heaven's portals!

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THE READING

They Will Look On Him

St. Mark 15:38-41

P: But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;

C: **the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.**

P: For He bore the sin of many,

C: **and made intercession for the transgressors.**

THE HYMN

"Were You There"

LSB #456

Note that this hymn reflects the Gospel of Mark (See Mark 16:8).

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?

THE READING

The Mockery of Jesus

St. Mark 15:16-20

P: He was despised and rejected by [us], a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

C: **Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.**

THE HYMN

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

LSB #450:1, 3

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.

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.

THE READING

Forced Service

St. Mark 15:21-23

P: Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

C: **yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.**

THE HYMN

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

LSB #451:3, 4

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.

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.

THE READING

Him Whom They Have Pierced

St. Mark 15:24-32

P: By oppression and judgment He was taken away. And who can speak of His descendants?

C: **For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken.**

A moment of silent reflection

P: By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God's kingdom comes to us.

C: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **and also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

C: **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. Amen.**

SIT

THE HYMN

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB #427

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

THE READING

Zechariah 12:10-14 (ESV)

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

"God Is Dead"

Zechariah 12:10-14

THE HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB #425:1-3

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.

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.

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?

STAND

THE RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Luther's Explanation of the Second Article

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

SIT

THE OFFERING & OFFERING OF MUSIC

"Christ, The Life Of All The Living"

LSB #420:1, 2, 6 & 7

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

THE HYMN "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

LSB #437:1, 3, 4

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.

THE READING He Opened Not His Mouth

St. Mark 15:1-5

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C: **and renew a right spirit with in me.**
P: Cast me not away from Your presence,
C: **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

THE HYMN "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"

LSB #439: 4, 5

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.

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 READING Jesus, Our Substitute

St. Mark 15:6-15

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.
C: **Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You.**

THE HYMN "My Song is Love Unknown"

LSB #430:3, 5

Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for His death They thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He To suffering goes
That He His foes From thence might free.

THE HYMN **"Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing"** **LSB #421:2, 3**
Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion, And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," That the tempter flee confounded.

If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.

THE READING **The Priest Stands Before the Accuser** **St. Mark 14:53-61a**
P: Surely You desire truth in the inner parts;
C: **You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**
P: He was oppressed and afflicted,
C: **yet He did not open His mouth;**
P: He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
C: **and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.**

THE HYMN **"Go to Dark Gethsemane"** **LSB #436:2**
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 suffring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

THE READING **Condemned by His Own** **St. Mark 14:61b-65**
P: Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean;
C: **wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

THE HYMN **"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"** **LSB #438:1**
A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth, None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer, He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies, "All this I gladly suffer."

THE READING **Ashamed of Jesus** **St. Mark 14:66-72**
P: Hide Your face from my sins
C: **and blot out all my iniquity.**

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

THE READING **The Sheep Will Be Scattered** **St. Mark 14:26-31**
P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love;
C: **According to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.**

THE HYMN **"Go to Dark Gethsemane"** **LSB #436:1**
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.

THE READING **The Spirit is Willing; the Flesh is Weak** **St. Mark 14:32-42**
P: Save me from blood guilt, O God, the God who saves me,
C: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

THE HYMN **"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"** **LSB #663:1, 2**
Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day Unawares o'ertaken;
For the foe, Well we know,
Is a harvest reaping While the saints are sleeping.

Watch against the devil's snares Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares To deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey Oft are they
Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.

THE READING **Sold for Thirty Pieces of Silver** **St. Mark 14:43-52**
P: Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight,
C: **so You are proved right when You speak, and justified when You judge.**
P: I have been sinful from birth,
C: **a sinner from the time of my conception.**
P: We all, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned, each in his own way,
C: **and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**