

# GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

St. John American Lutheran Church + ELCA + April 2, 2021

The word *Tenebrae* means "darkness." As each of the last words of Christ from the cross are read and remembered, one candle is extinguished. Darkness increases as the service unfolds, symbolizing the denial and flight of the disciples and friends of Jesus. The moment of darkness recalls his death. Our service this evening concludes in the fellowship hall with the closing of the tomb door. In our darkness there remains one light – the eternal light of Christ. Even though darkness settled upon the earth that first Good Friday, the light of God reminds us of Christ's unstoppable forgiveness and grace.

*The congregation gathers in silence.*

## CANTORS

Jeannette Stowsand & Paul

Matchan

1. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
2. Into your hands I commend my spirit.
1. You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.
2. Into your hands I commend my spirit.
1. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
2. Into your hands I commend my spirit.
1. Hear my prayer, O Lord.
2. Listen to my cry.
1. Keep me as the apple of your eye.
2. Hide me in the shadow of your wings.
1. In righteousness I shall see you.
2. When I awake, your presence will give me joy.
1. Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
2. Amen.

## HYMNS

### "Lamb of God"

1.

***Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the lamb of God. O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.***

2.

***Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died. The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.***

3.

***I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.***

### "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God"

***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.***

## PASSION NARRATIVE

John

19.17-42

And carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us

not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced." After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*Silence for prayer and meditation.*

#### SERMON

Pastor

Paul

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

Annika

Kvale

"Thy Will"

Jarid Kvale & Ben Kvale, Accompanists

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

##### LORD'S PRAYER *(Whispered)*

**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.**

#### TENEBRAE (DARKNESS)

##### "The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross"

*After the reading of each word, a candle is extinguished, signifying a deepening darkness in the world, and the ensuing death of Jesus.*

##### FIRST WORD

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23.32-34a).

**C O God, our Father, by the cross of our Son, you reconciled the world to yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise you for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us to forgive each other and to establish justice and concord throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

##### SECOND WORD

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and

us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23.39-43).

**C O holy Jesus, in your infinite mercy you accepted the conversion of a sinner on a cross. Open your heart of mercy toward all who know your love yet delay giving you their devotion. Bring quickly the day when all people will call you Lord, and by your grace, give us all a place in paradise. Amen.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

1.

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**

2.

**Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**

3.

**I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

**THIRD WORD**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour, the disciple took her into his own home (John 19.25b-27).

**C Gentle Savior, while suffering the agony of the cross, you showed your love for your sorrowing mother. We ask you to regard with tender mercy all parents whose hearts are broken by the loss of loved ones or heavily burdened with worries over lost and hurting children. Gather us all within the peace of your cross, so that the bond of parenthood and childhood may be knit together in love of you, whose mercy heals all. Amen.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

**FOURTH WORD**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema Sabachthani?" that is, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and died (Matthew 27.45-50).

**C Almighty God, you are a strong tower to those who put their trust in you. Before you all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey. Do not forsake us in this, our time of need. Makes us to know and feel your strong presence around us, and, according to your loving kindness, give us wholeness and salvation. Amen.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN "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.**

2.

**What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never out live my love to thee.**

3.

**Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die; remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh. These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move; for all who die believing die safely in thy love.**

#### **FIFTH WORD**

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the Scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there, so they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth (John 19.28-29).

**C Dear Jesus, you endured the cross for our sakes and in bitter suffering of flesh and spirit atoned for our sins. As we thirst for a healing only you can provide, come to us and enable us to carry our burdens and, by your holy example, give strength to overcome the sufferings that meet us in our walk on earth. Amen.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

#### **SIXTH WORD**

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit (John 19.30).

**C Lord Jesus, direct us in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your constant help, that in all our works – begun, continued, and ended in you – we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life. Amen.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

#### **HYMN "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"**

1.

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?**

2.

**Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in  
when God, the mighty maker died for his own creatures' sin.**

3.

**Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross  
appears, dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my  
eyes to tears.**

4.

**But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe; here,  
Lord, I give myself away: 'tis all that I can do.**

#### **SEVENTH WORD**

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain in the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last (Luke 23.44-46).

**C O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled world, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening falls, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.**

*A candle is extinguished.*

#### **CANTORS**

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1. Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
2. Amen.

***The congregation departs in silence. There will be no benediction until  
Easter morning.***

*Please practice physical distancing necessitated by a still-dynamic pandemic and minimize everyone's exposure to COVID19 as you depart from worship. Thank you.*