



# Good Friday † Tenebrae Vespers

29 March 2024

7 p.m.

## As We Gather...

Good Friday stands at the heart and center of the sacred Triduum (Latin for "three days," the three-day observance of Christ's Passover), even as Christ's death on the cross, which it commemorates and celebrates, stands at the heart and center of the Christian faith and life. The name for Good Friday may originally have been "God's Friday," but it is certainly also "good" because of the good gifts Christ won for us on this day. The service of this day is marked by the Church's deepest humility and most solemn reverence, for she gives her attention to the cross and Passion of her dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Church's sorrow and contrition do not give way to despair, however; nor does she mourn the death of Christ. Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Jesus, and we do not seek to self-cultivate feelings of sadness or pity for our Savior as His Passion is read. Rather, this is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption that our Savior accomplished for us on the cross. Thus, in repentant faith the Church gives thanks for Christ's atoning sacrifice and lays hold of His redemption in the hearing of His Gospel.

This 7 p.m. service is the Tenebrae Vespers Service for Good Friday. The service of Tenebrae (meaning "darkness") consists of the extinguishing of the church lights. Historically it occurred early in the morning at the Offices of Matins and Lauds on all three days of the Triduum. In recent times, the service has been observed only on the evening of Good Friday, allowing the Chief Service of Good Friday to be held between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., the hours when our Savior hung upon the cross. Nevertheless, since many are not able to attend the Chief Service at 1 p.m., this year's Tenebrae Vespers Service also contains some ancient elements from the Chief Service, particularly the reading of the St. John Passion, the Bidding Prayer, and the Reproaches. The altar, having been stripped on Holy (Maundy) Thursday, remains bare throughout this service. A more recent addition to Tenebrae, often referred to as the *strepitus* (meaning "loud noise"), occurs after the last candle is extinguished. While the action has a variety of interpretations, including the scourging of Jesus by the soldiers and the earthquake at the moment of Christ's death, its placement in our Tenebrae Service suggests another common understanding - the closing of Christ's tomb.

Because this service constitutes the center part of the Triduum, which understands the services from the evening of Holy Thursday through the Vigil of Easter to form one continuous liturgy, the Good Friday Tenebrae Service has neither entrance rite nor benediction. The return of the Light of Christ at the end of the service ensures that the final note of the service is one of triumph, for God's faithful know the end of the story.

## Prayer before Worship...

Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, on this day You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend, for this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? As I meditate upon Your passion give to me a repentant heart that clings in faith to your death-defeating death and life-restoring resurrection. O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for Thee. Grant this to us all, O Lord, for Your name's sake. Amen.

*All enter the church in silence.*

*Stand*

## OPENING VERSICLES

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

## PSALMODY *Psalm 51*



*Antiphon:*

- A** Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin!
- A** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;\*  
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.
- C** Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin!
- A** For I know my trans- | gressions,\*  
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
- C** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,\*  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.
- A** Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,\*  
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- C** Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,\*  
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
- A** Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;\*  
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- C** Let me hear joy and | gladness;\*  
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.
- A** Hide your face | from my sins,\*  
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- C** Create in me a clean heart, | O God,\*  
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
- A** Cast me not away from your | presence,\*  
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- C** Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,\*  
and uphold me with a willing | spirit. *Antiphon*

## COLLECT

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

# ✠ THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

HYMN      *Sacred Head, Now Wounded*      LSB 450 (stanzas 1-3)



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!  
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
How doth Thy face now lan - guish That once was bright as morn!  
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;  
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.  
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

**P** The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." 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.

*Silence*

**COLLECT**

**P** Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.





4 My Shep-herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard-ian, own me Thine.  
 5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,  
 6 My Sav - ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;  
 7 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.  
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?  
 Then let Thy pres - ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!  
 Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;  
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,  
 When soul and bod - y lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone,  
 Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.  
 But take a - way mine an - guish By vir - tue of Thine own!  
 My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

*Stand*

### Reading *John 19:16b-42*

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, '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 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, but standing by 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 nearby, he said

to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So 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. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” 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.

*Silence*

### COLLECT

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**G** Amen.

### RESPONSORY

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

**G** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

**G** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

**G** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

*Sit*

## OFFICE HYMN

*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*

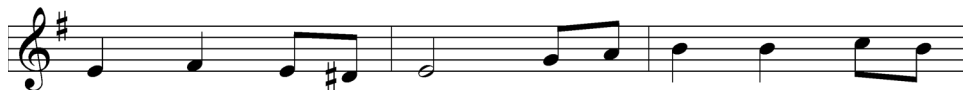
LSB 451



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the  
 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan - ing, Was there ev - er grief like  
 3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil  
 4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my  
 His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -  
 great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its  
 lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed  
 sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to  
 guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -  
 name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I  
 wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the  
 point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the  
 wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.  
 deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.  
 Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.  
 ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

## SERMON

*Stand*



## ✠ BIDDING PRAYER ✠

- A** *Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:*
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**
- A** *Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:*
- P** Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**
- A** *Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:*
- P** Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**
- A** *Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:*
- P** O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially our President; the Congress of the United States; our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**
- A** *Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:*

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:*

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:*

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are needful for them and profitable for their salvation:*

**P** O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:*

**P** O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**A** *Finally, let us pray for all things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:*

**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.

*Sit*

## ✠ REPROACHES ✠

*The following REPROACHES are the words of the Lord against His people, the Church, to which the congregation replies with a plea for mercy.*

### REPROACH

**P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

**C** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

*The first light is extinguished.*

**HYMN (Choir)**    *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*    LSB 434 (stanza 1)



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

## REPROACH

**P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed You with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

**C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.**

*The second light is extinguished.*

## HYMN *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy* LSB 434 (stanza 2)

2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

## REPROACH

**P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

**C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.**

*The third light is extinguished.*

**HYMN (Choir)** *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy* LSB 434 (stanza 3)

3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

*Stand*

**ADORATION**

- A** We adore You, | O Lord,\*  
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.  
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross\*  
joy has come into | all the world.  
God be merciful to us and | bless us,\*  
and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy up- | on us.  
We adore You, | O Lord,\*  
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.  
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross\*  
joy has come into | all the world.

**CONCLUDING COLLECT**

- P** Let us pray. We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

*The final light is extinguished.*



**THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS REMOVED**

*The removal of the Light of Christ symbolizes the death of our Lord.*

**THE STREPITUS**

*The strepitus (meaning "loud noise") symbolizes the closing of Christ's tomb.*

**HYMN**

*O Darkest Woe*

LSB 448

1 O dark - est woe! Ye tears, forth flow! Has  
2 O sor - row dread! Our God is dead, Up -  
3 O child of woe: Who struck the blow That  
4 Thy Bride - groom dead! God's Lamb has bled Up -

earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's  
on the cross ex - tend - ed. There His love en -  
killed our gra - cious Mas - ter? "It was I," thy  
on thy sin for - ev - er, Pour - ing out His

on - ly Son Now is bur - ied yon - der.  
liv - ened us As His life was end - ed.  
con - science cries, "I have wrought dis - as - ter!"  
sin - less self In this vast en - deav - or.

**5 Such innocence!  
His countenance  
A fount of faith undying!  
Worlds on worlds cannot contain  
Grief at Him here lying.**

**6 O Virgin's Son,  
What Thou hast won  
Is far beyond all telling:  
How our God, detested, died,  
Hell and devil felling.**

**7 O Jesus Christ,  
Who sacrificed  
Thy life for lifeless mortals:  
Be my life in death and bring  
Me to heaven's portals!**

**THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS RETURNED**

*In the certain knowledge of Christ's resurrection from the dead and the sure hope of our own, the Light of Christ is returned to the sanctuary.*

*In penitential anticipation of the victorious celebration of Easter, **all leave the church in silence.** You may remain in the church for silent prayer for as long as you desire.*

*Please join us for the rest of our Holy Week Services:*

**Holy Saturday – March 30**

Vigil of Easter: 8 p.m.

**The Resurrection of Our Lord – March 31**

6:30 & 10:30 a.m.

