

■ Good Friday Tenebrae Service ■ Bethlehem Lutheran Church April 18, 2025, 7:00pm

Welcome in Jesus' Name

This service is patterned after the ancient office of Tenebrae. The word "Tenebrae" means "darkness". The purpose of the service is to impress upon us the terrible reality of sin and the world's great need for a Savior that caused our Savior to die for us.

A total of eight candles are used in this worship service. Seven of these candles represent the seven last sentences spoken by our Savior from the cross, and the eighth candle is the Christ candle. As the seven candles are extinguished one by one, causing the chancel to become increasingly darkened, we are reminded of the darkness that covered the earth at the time our Lord spoke these words at His crucifixion. It also serves as a reminder of the spiritual darkness that would exist had the Light of the World not come. The exit of the Christ Candle, near the close of the service, signifies Christ's death and burial. This is followed by a time of quiet meditation upon Christ's death. When the book is closed with a sharp sound, this acknowledges that with the sealed tomb the meaning of the cross is fulfilled, the sacrifice completed. The Christ Candle is not extinguished at any time during the service, as it is symbolic of the eternal light of God's love.

Though evil had its hour, the light of God's love continues to burn to all eternity. Join us for the Easter Sunrise service as we are witnesses to the Lord's resurrection, and we rejoice in the glorious message of the risen Christ.

(Congregation enters in quiet reverence.)

Please stand

- P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed; therefore, we flee for refuge to Your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C O most merciful God, since You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins;

and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.
- C Amen.
- P Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages
- C to do away with sin by sacrificing Himself.
- 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 upon the cross, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please be seated

Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces

he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: vet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All 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. ⁷He 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. ⁸By 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? ⁹And 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. ¹⁰Yet 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. ¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore 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:

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

yet he bore the sin of many,

and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Reading

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Reading John 19:17–30

¹⁷[Jesus] went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many 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. ²¹So 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.'" ²²Pilate answered. "What I have written I have written."

²³When 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, ²⁴so 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, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the

disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me, Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
- 3 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.
- Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run.

He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.

- 5 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 suff'ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

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Sermon

Offering

Litany of the Passion

- P Lord, have mercy upon us.
- C Christ, have mercy upon us.
- P Lord, have mercy upon us. O God the Father in heaven:
- C have mercy upon us.
- P O God the Son, Redeemer of the world;

- C have mercy upon us.
- P O God the Holy Spirit;
- C have mercy upon us.
- P Jesus, Son of the living God;
- C have mercy upon us.
- P From all evil;
- C O Jesus, deliver us.
- P From sudden, unprepared, or evil death; from the snares of the devil, from anger, hatred, or ill-will, from everlasting death;
- C O Jesus, deliver us.
- Р By the mystery of your incarnation, by your most holy life, by your bitter suffering and death, by your agony and bloody sweat, by your prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane; by your sacred body buffeted and smitten; by the spitting upon your face; by the false judgment pronounced upon you by Caiaphas; by the ridicule you endured from Herod and his soldiers; by the shameful stripping off of your garments, by your painful crown of thorns; by your purple robe of mockery, by your most unjust condemnation, by your bearing your own cross, by your footprints to the place of death; by the tearing off of your garments; by the cruel straining of your sacred limbs; by your dread crucifixion, by the upraising of your cross, by the anguish which you suffered; by your prayers and tears, by the insults which you endured, by the shedding of your most precious blood; by your patience and humility, by the love with which you loved us to the end:
- C O Jesus, deliver us.
- P We sinners plead with you to hear us;
- C O most loving Jesus.
- P That being dead unto sin, we may live unto righteousness; that we may not glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may take our cross daily and follow you, that your blood may cleanse us from dead works to serve the living God, that looking to your example, we may follow your steps; that being partakers of your sufferings, we may be also of your glory;
- C Hear us, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;
- C have mercy upon us.
- P O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;
- C have mercy upon us.

- P O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;
- C Grant us your peace.
- P We adore you, we bless you, Lord Jesus;
- C because by your cross and passion you have redeemed the world.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, you were lifted up on the Cross for the redemption of the world and you shed your blood for the remission of our sins; we humbly pray that by the virtue and merits of your perfect life and your innocent suffering and death, you would grant us to enter into the gates of Paradise with joy, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My № blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Please note that "gluten free" communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant "gluten free" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant "clear" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.

Distribution Hymns (please refer to the hymnal)

434 - Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

425 - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

550 -- Lamb of God

Nunc Dimittis

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Part I – "Father, forgive them"

The soldiers now had charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out of the city to a place called Skull Hill, in Hebrew, Golgotha. As they led him away, they laid hold of Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country. On him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. Following him was a great company of people and of women who bewailed and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said,

"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for your-

selves and for your children. The days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck.' Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things with a green tree, what will happen with a dry one?"

There were also two others, criminals whom they led along to be put to death with him. When they came to the place called Golgotha, they gave him wine mingled with gall to drink, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

It was the third hour, and there they crucified him. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The two criminals they crucified with him—one on his right, the other on his left, with Jesus in the middle. The Scripture was then fulfilled which says, "And he was numbered with the transgressors."

(The first candle is extinguished.)

456 Were You There

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?

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?

Part II - "Today You will be with Me"

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they cast lots to divide his clothes and decide what each should take. They made four parts, one for each soldier. There remained his tunic. This was without seam, woven in one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide who shall have it." The Scripture was thus fulfilled which says, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." These things the soldiers did and, sitting down, they kept watch over him there.

Over his head was put the charge against him. Pilate wrote the notice to be put on the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS. This title was read by many of the Jews for the place where Jesus was crucified was near to the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "You should not write 'The King of the Jews,' but 'This man said, I am the King of the Jews.."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

People stood by, watching. Those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying "Aha!" You who would destroy the temple and build 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 to one another saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross that we may see and believe. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming to him and offering him wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." The thieves also who were crucified with him cast the same in his teeth. And one of the criminals who hung there with him mocked him.

"Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are getting what we deserve for what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

(The second candle is extinguished.)

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.
- 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.

Part III - "Behold, your son"

Near to the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, 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 into his own home.

(The third candle is extinguished.)

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

- 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.
- 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!

Part IV - "Why have you forsaken me"

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard it, they said, "He is calling for Elijah."

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

- 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?
- 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee; With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee; They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.
- Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish? It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish; Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.
- 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.

Part V - "I thirst"

After this, Jesus knew that all things were accomplished. Fulfilling the Scripture he said, "I thirst." There was a jar of wine standing there. One of them ran immediately to get a sponge. He filled it with wine, put it on a reed, held it up to his mouth, and gave it to him to drink. Others said, "Wait and see if Elijah will come and save him."

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

 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 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.

Part VI – "It is finished!"

When Jesus had received the wine he cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!"

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet, Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Part VII - "Father, into your hands"

Then he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he died, he said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

All the people who had gathered to see the sight, when they saw

what had happened, turned away beating their breasts. Those who had known him stood at a distance, as also the women who had followed him from Galilee. Among them was Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

- 1 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.
- 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears, Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.

Part VIII - "The burial of Jesus"

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

456 Were You There

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,

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,

tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

(The Christ Candle is removed.)

The Closing of the Book

(The book is closed to symbolize the placing of Jesus' body in the tomb.)

The Lord's Prayer

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 Christ Candle is returned to its place reminding us that Christ defeated the powers of darkness and that He rose victorious over sin and death.)

The Silent Prayer

(The congregation will depart in silence.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Good Friday, Chief Service from Lutheran Service Book

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher Rev. Jeremy Hanson Rev. Jeremy Hanson

Organist Sandy Kasten

Communion Assistants Brian Hasenstein & David Ames

Student Assistants (A) Jaxon Freyberg

★ The Great and Holy Week ★

Easter Vigil worship with Holy Communion April 19th, 5:30pm (No Bible class)

Easter Sunday worship with Holy Communion
The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 20th, 6:00am, 8:00am and 10:30am (No Bible class)

Easter Breakfast
Served in the Parish Activity Center
7:00am -- 10:00am