

Good Friday Service

Tenebrae Service of the Seven Last Words

Faith Lutheran Church

April 7, 2023

7:00 PM

Welcome tonight—the blessings of grace and peace be with you as we worship and praise our Lord Jesus Christ in this service. The Tenebrae service dates from the eighth century and was celebrated during Holy Week commemorating the suffering and death of our Lord, Christ Jesus. Tonight's service represents the darkness that fell over the land as Jesus of Nazareth, God's only begotten Son, was crucified on Calvary.

Seven words He spoke upon the cross—even in the throes of death when words come hard and only from the inner depths of self. Seven words—that we might know Him deeply. Dare we not listen; for in knowing him we come to know ourselves; since we are his creation. Formed in the image of God, yet fallen; locked away in hiding like his disciples before us; fearful, lest we too be called to account for the hope that is in us. Fallen yet lifted up, made over in His image, the one who dies to redeem us. Raised up with Him that we might share in the life of God.

As you enter the sanctuary, please remain silent for meditation. The ministers enter in silence and go to their places.

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE (SHADOWS)

Please Stand

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray: Lord Jesus,

C: You carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have forgiveness and life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in You now and in the world to come, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *"The Old Rugged Cross"*

1) On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

2) O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. *[Refrain]*

3) In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. *[Refrain]*

You may be seated.

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 52:13 -53:10

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

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

¹⁵ so 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.

53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?

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

² For 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.

³ He 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.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All 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.

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.

⁸ 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?

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

HYMN: "Were You There" *With Andrew and Cathy Cave*

- 1) 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?
- 2) 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?
- 3) Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

THE FIRST WORD – FORGIVENESS

Luke 23:32-38

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And 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. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they

do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Dear Lord, though I believe at one level that you have forgiven me, this amazing truth needs to penetrate my heart in new ways. Help me to know with fresh conviction that I am fully and finally forgiven, not because of anything I have done, but because of what you have done for me. May I live today as a forgiven person, opening my heart to you, choosing not to sin because the power of sin has been broken by your salvation. All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, for your matchless forgiveness! Amen.

HYMN: *"Alas! And did My Savior Bleed"* LBW #98 Vs. 1-2

1) Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

2) Was it for sins that I had done

he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree!

Extinguish First Candle

THE SECOND WORD – SALVATION

LUKE 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Dear Lord Jesus, how I wonder at your grace and mercy! When we cry out to you, you hear us. When we ask you to remember us when you come into your kingdom, you offer the promise of paradise. Your mercy, dear Lord, exceeds anything we might imagine. It embraces us, encourages us, heals us. O Lord, though my situation is so different from the criminal who cried out to you, I am nevertheless quite like him. Today I live, trusting you and you alone. My life, now and in the world to come, is in your hands. And so I pray: Jesus, remember me

when you come into your kingdom! Jesus, remember me today as I seek to live within your kingdom! Amen.

HYMN: *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

Jesus, remember me
When you come onto your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
When you come into your kingdom.
(3x)

Extinguish Second Candle

THE THIRD WORD – LOVE

John 19:23-27

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.

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Lord Jesus, the presence of your mother at the cross engages my heart. You are no longer only the Savior dying for the sins of the world. You are also a fully human man, a son with a mother. All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, fully God and fully human, Savior of the world . . . my Savior! Amen.

HYMN: *"What Wondrous Love Is This?"* LBW #385 Vs. 1-2

1) What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2) When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

Extinguish Third Candle

THE FOURTH WORD – ABANDONMENT

Matthew 27:45-46

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Thank you, dear Lord, for what you suffered. Thank you for taking my place. Thank you for being forsaken by the Father so that I might never be. Amen.

HYMN: "Ah, Holy Jesus" LBW # 123 Vs. 1-2

- 1) Ah, Holy Jesus, how has thou offended
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.
- 2) Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

Extinguish Fourth Candle

THE FIFTH WORD – PASSION

John 19:28-29

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ 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.

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Dear Lord, in your words "I am thirsty" I hear the cry of my own heart. I too am thirsty, Lord, not for physical drink. I don't need sour wine. Rather, I need the new wine of your kingdom to flood my soul. I need to be refreshed by your living water. I yearn for your Spirit to fill me once again. I am thirsty, Lord, for you. Amen.

HYMN: *"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"* LBW #117 Vs. 1-2

- 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) How art thou pale with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn;
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn!
They grief and bitter Passion
Were all for sinner's gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.

Extinguish Fifth Candle

THE SIXTH WORD - VICTORY

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: How can I ever find words to express my gratitude to you, dear Lord Jesus? You did it. You finished that for which you had been sent, faithful in life, faithful in death. You accomplished that which no other person could do, taking the sin of the world upon your sinless shoulders . . . taking my sin so that I might receive your forgiveness and new life. All praise be to you, gracious Lord, for finishing the work of salvation. All praise be to you, dear Jesus, for saving me! Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN: "*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*" LBW #117 Vs. 3-4

- 3) 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
outlive my love to thee.
- 4) 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 he who dies believing
dies safely in thy love.

Extinguish Sixth Candle

THE SEVENTH WORD - REUNION

LUKE 23:44-46

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ 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.

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Gracious Lord, even as you once entrusted your spirit into the hands of the Father, so I give my life to you. I trust you, and you alone to be my Savior. I submit to your sovereignty over my life, and seek to live for your glory alone. Here I am, Lord, available to you, both now and in the future. How good it is to know, dear Lord, that the cross was not the end for you. As you entrusted your spirit into the Father's hands, you did so in

anticipation of what was to come. So we reflect upon your death, not in despair, but in hope. With Good Friday behind us, Easter Sunday is on the horizon. Amen.

HYMN: *"Were You There"* ELW # 353 Vs. 4-5

4) Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5) 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?

Extinguish Seventh Candle

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

C: Lord Jesus, one of us betrayed you, another denied you, and all of us have forsaken you. Yet, you have died for us, taking our sins upon yourself and atoning for us before the Father. Strengthen us so that we do not turn aside, but follow you through sunlight and shadow alike. For the final victory belongs to you, Lord Jesus, and in that we hope to share. Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Whispered)*

ADORATION OF OUR LORD

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

HYMN: *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* ELW #803

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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?
- 4) Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Extinguish the Christ Candle

P: Now depart in silence. Return on Easter in hope and expectation!