

TENEBRAE: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF DARKNESS

**April 2, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

This service is part of the Triduum, literally three-day service, begun yesterday on Maundy Thursday, and concluded tomorrow at the Easter Vigil.

This service, recited and sung on the night of our Lord's death, is called Tenebrae, which means 'darkness' or shadows.' It is named for the practice of extinguishing all but one of the prepared candles, symbolizing the flight of Jesus' friends the night of his arrest. The deeper significance is rooted in the void, confusion and grief that filled the minds and spirits of Christ's followers during his sufferings, and of the darkness that covered the entire world at his death.

"In all my adversities, I have not found any remedies so powerful as the passion and wounds of Jesus. In them I sleep securely. In them I rest without fear."

- St. Augustine

TOLLING OF THE BELL

(Please rise and face the processional cross)

OPENING SENTENCES:

P: Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the cross of Christ.

C: **We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.**

P: Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken Savior on a cross?

C: **Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.**

P: Let us gather again in the shadow of the cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid. Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called “Good.”

ADORATION OF THE CROSS:

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Christ, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

OPENING HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**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?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

(Congregation is seated)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, part 1, from Isaiah 53 *(The Message)*

Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought GOD's saving power would look like this? The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried—*our* disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—*our sins!* He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And GOD has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him. He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word. Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered and like a sheep being sheared, he took it all in silence. Justice miscarried, and he was led off—and did anyone really know what was happening? He died without a thought for his own welfare, beaten bloody for the sins of my people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: This is the day when life is raw, quivering, terrifying: The day of numbed emotions, the day of blunt nails and splintered wood, of bruised flesh and red blood. The day we loathe, when hopes are crushed. The day we long for, when pretenses fall away— because the worst that we can do cannot kill the love of God. Let us pray:

C: **Gracious God, your love is a light in our darkness, vulnerable, yet unquenchable. Let us stand tonight with Christ, in the midst of the horrors of this world where betrayal and death constantly threaten your love and peace. Let us see love conquering, prevailing, outlasting all that comes up against it. Amen.**

READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:

Betrayal, Arrest, Trial before High Priest, Peter's Denial

CHORAL RESPONSE: *“Kyrie Eleison”* from “Behold, It Is Finished” – Dengler

(Candle is extinguished)

READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:

Jesus Before Pilate

HYMN: “O, Dearest Jesus”

**O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession,
What dark transgression?**

**They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
They give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
They crucify you.**

**What is the source of all your mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
This I do merit.**

**O wondrous love, whose depth no heart has sounded,
That brought you here, by foes and thieves surrounded,
Conquer my heart, make love its sole endeavor
Henceforth forever!**

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(Candle is extinguished)

**READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:
*Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion***

CHORAL RESPONSE: “Crucify This Man!” – Lloyd Larson

(Candle is extinguished)

**READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:
*The Crucifixion***

**RESPONSE: “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”
Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree!
This is Christ, by man rejected; Here, my soul, your Savior see.**

**He's the long expected prophet, David's son, yet David's Lord.
Proofs I see sufficient of it: He's the true and faithful Word.**

**Tell me, all who hear him groaning, Was there ever grief like this?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that justice gave.**

**You 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;
It's the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.**

("Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

(Candle is extinguished)

**READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:
*Jesus' Mother***

CHORAL RESPONSE: "That Virgin's Child" – 16th century setting – K. Lee Scott

(Candle is extinguished)

**READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:
*Jesus' Death***

**RESPONSE: "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, tho' despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

**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 for Thee.**

**Be Thou my Consolation, My Shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy Passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee, Who dieth thus dies well.**

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(Candle is extinguished)

MESSAGE: "Look Up!" – Pastor Bill Hugo

READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:

The Burial of Jesus

(Candle is extinguished)

PRAYER:

P: Let us pray.

C: Christ Jesus, you hung upon a cross and died for us so that we might live for you.

P: Your body was broken and your blood shed so that we might be healed and made whole.

C: You were faithful unto death so that we might be faithful unto life.

P: Your last command was that we might love one another:

C: One family together from every tribe and nation,

P: A new creation united through your sacrifice,

C: Redeemed by your blood,

P: Healed by your love,

C: United by your covenant of peace.

All: In your death may we find life.

LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken quietly)*

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

CHRIST CANDLE IS REMOVED (Christ's body is placed in the tomb)

THE *STREPITUS* (Closing of the tomb)

CHRIST CANDLE IS RETURNED (Our salvation is complete)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, part 2, from Isaiah 53 (*The Message*)

They buried him with the wicked, threw him in a grave with a rich man, even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one word that wasn't true. Still, it's what GOD had in mind all along, to crush him with pain. The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin so that he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more life. And GOD's plan will deeply prosper through him.

CHOIR: "The Cross Has the Final Word" – Cody Carnes

(Please exit the church in silence)

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Louise Roberts

Readers: Louise Roberts, Pastor Bill Hugo, Ben Hugo, Renata Kikeh, Sean Allen, Aubree Allen, Brenda Hugo, Kristen Landwehr, Michelle Wermerskirchen, Bruce Blase; Ben Kretschman, Will Hugo, Andrew Wagner (recording)

Ushers: Alman Team

Power Point: Ben Kretschman

Acolyte: Aubree Allen, Ben Kretschman (recording)

Instrumentalists: Chuy Ramirez - clarinet; Will Hugo – baritone; Kevin Lindee – flute; Andrew Wagner - violin

Piano Duet: Ben Kretschman & Carol Blase

Soloists: Ben Hugo, Brenda Hugo

Trio: Brenda Hugo, Kevin Lindee, Ben Hugo

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Craig Affeldt
Bruce Blase
Judie Colaianni
Maria Davis
Jacqueline Hed
Ben Hugo
Brenda Hugo

Will Hugo
Lori Krueger
Kristen Landwehr
Kevin Lindee
Deb Santillo
Andrew Wagner
Michelle Wermerskirchen

Karrie Kikeh, accompanist

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