Good Fríday "Tenebrae" Servíce Apríl 2, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 215 N. Warren St. Orwigsburg, PA 570-366-2316

Tonight we recall the passion, death, and burial of our Lord. The order of our worship is based on a medieval prayer service called "Tenebrae" - a Latin word meaning "darkness" or "shadows." Our worship is not a liturgical "funeral" for Jesus marked by gloom, but a solemn service of reflection, intercession, and adoration as the Son of God offers up his life as the true Lamb of God.

The seven lighted candles which you see represent the seven sayings or "words" of Jesus from the cross. One by one the candles will be extinguished. This "dimming" symbolizes the ebbing of Jesus' life and the darkness of the world's sin which surrounded the cross on that first Good Friday.

At the end of this service, you will hear a loud noise called the "strepitus." It reminds us of the closing of our Savior's tomb.

After this service is ended, please leave the church in silence.

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

O, my people, O, my church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you, that you should testify against me? I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I led you through the desert for forty years, and fed you with manna;
I brought you through tribulation and pestilence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced the side of your Savior with a spear, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys of the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. Lord, have mercy upon us.

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom.

I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter, deny, and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior. Lord, have mercy upon us.

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them in my covenants, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior Lord, have mercy upon us.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Amen.

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

THE FIRST WORD

"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

²⁶As they led [Jesus] away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When 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. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:26-28, 32-34a)

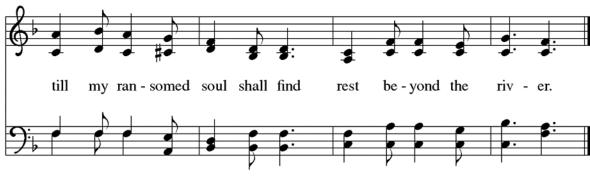
[The first candle is extinguished.]

REFLECTION

HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross [See next page]

HYMN Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross the cross, there's a pre-cious foun-tain; Je - sus, keep me near love and mer - cy found me; bring its scenes be - fore me; 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Near the cross! O Lamb of God, 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing free to all, heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain. there the bright and morn - ing its beams a - round me. sheds star help me walk from with day to day its shad - ow o'er I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er. Refrain in the cross my glo - ry In the cross, be ev - er;



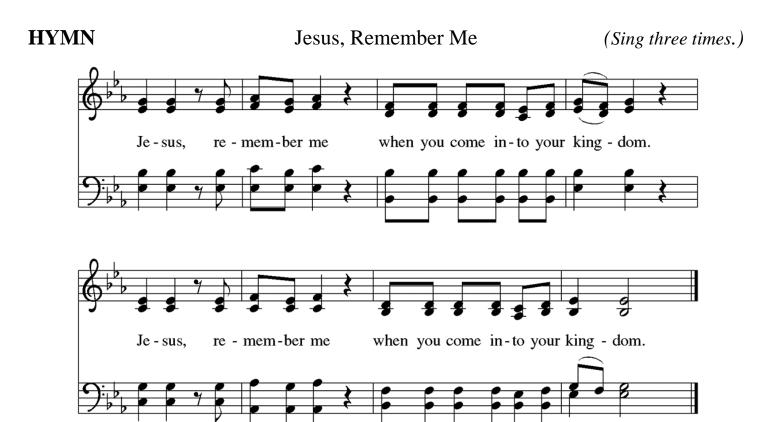
THE SECOND WORD

"Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

[The second candle is extinguished.]

REFLECTION



THE THIRD WORD

"Woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother."

Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 9:25b-27)

[The third candle is extinguished.]

REFLECTION

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus [See next page]



THE FOURTH WORD "I Thirst."

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A 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)

[The fourth candle is extinguished.]

REFLECTION



THE FIFTH WORD

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:33-34)

[The fifth candle is extinguished.]

REFLECTION

HYMN

Abide with Me [See next page]



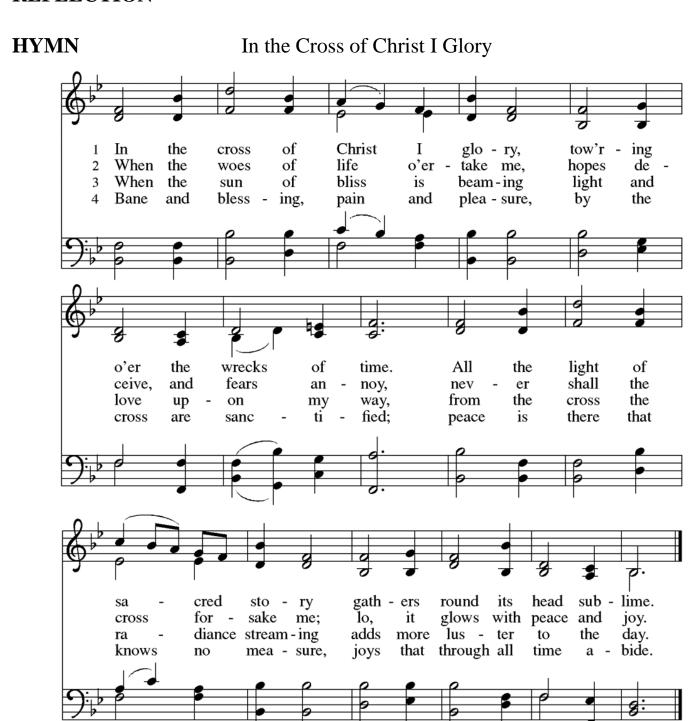
THE SIXTH WORD

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

[The sixth candle is extinguished.]

REFLECTION



THE SEVENTH WORD "It is finished."

^{30b}[Then] Jesus said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

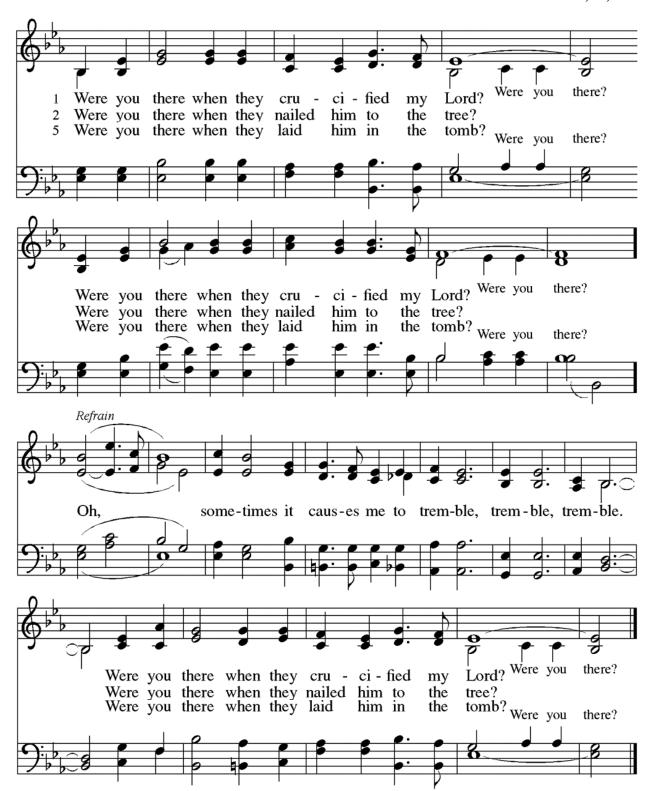
Silence

³¹Since 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. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced." ³⁸After 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. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now 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. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19:30b-42)

[The seventh candle is extinguished.]

REFLECTION

HYMN Were You There? Vs. 1, 2, 5 [See next page]



THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in unison)

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 forever. Amen.

[- strepitus -]

THE TOMB IS CLOSED.

[Please leave the church in silence.]