

# *Good Friday "Tenebrae" Service*

*April 2, 2021*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
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Orwigsburg, PA  
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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.

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## **PRELUDE**

## **INVOCATION**

We gather in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  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.”**

<sup>26</sup>As 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. <sup>27</sup>A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup>But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

<sup>32</sup>Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

<sup>33</sup>When 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. <sup>34</sup>Then 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

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## THE SECOND WORD

**“Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”**

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”

<sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:39-43)

*[The second candle is extinguished.]*

## REFLECTION

### HYMN

Jesus, Remember Me

*(Sing three times.)*

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of the hymn consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of the hymn consists of two staves, identical in notation to the first system. It features a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with a bass line, both in a two-flat key signature and 7/8 time. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

## **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. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” <sup>27</sup>Then 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]

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.



## THE FOURTH WORD

### “I Thirst.”

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

### HYMN

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## **THE FIFTH WORD**

**“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At 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]

## HYMN

## Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## THE SIXTH WORD

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

<sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

(Luke 23:46)

*[The sixth candle is extinguished.]*

## REFLECTION

### HYMN

### In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## THE SEVENTH WORD

### “It is finished.”

<sup>30b</sup>[Then] Jesus said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### *Silence*

<sup>31</sup>Since 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. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

<sup>38</sup>After 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.

<sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now 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. <sup>42</sup>And 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]

HYMN

Were You There?

Vs. 1, 2, 5

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

**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.

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*[ - strepitus - ]*

**THE TOMB IS CLOSED.**

*[Please leave the church in silence.]*