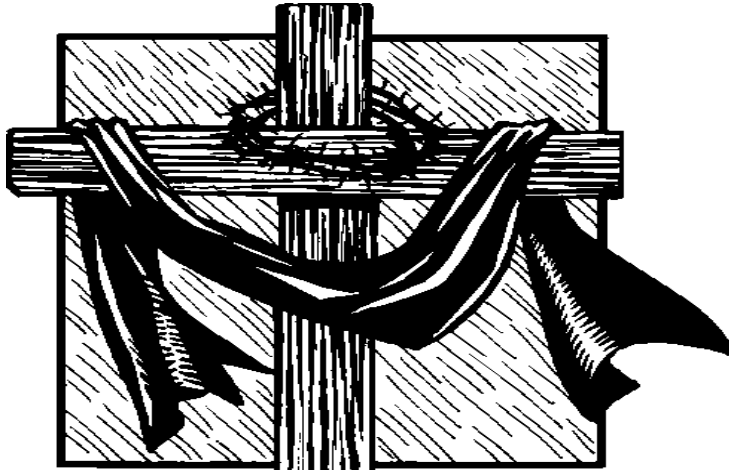


A Special Service for Good Friday
Words of Christ on the Cross



**GOOD
FRIDAY
SERVICE**

April 18, 2025
7:00 p.m.

A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Tenebrae (pronounced “ten-e-bray”) means darkness. This order of worship originated in the early Christian Church and was used for public worship during Holy Week. Through the progressive extinguishing of candles, the magnitude of the Savior’s sacrifice and the awful consequences of sin are impressed on our hearts and minds. We will be using fifteen candles to signify that this same Jesus is the light of the world. Twelve of these candles represent the disciples, and two of them represent the two Marys. The extinguishing of these candles recalls that Jesus’ followers deserted Him and fled. As we see these candles extinguished, we are reminded of our own desertion of Jesus and the consequence of separation. The fifteenth candle represents our Lord. It is not extinguished, but, as Christ’s body was hidden in the tomb for three days, so this candle is removed and hidden for a short time. The resulting darkness recalls the unusual darkness that occurred as Jesus hung on the cross and represents the apparent victory of Satan. However, on Easter morning the Christ-candle will be returned, indicating that even the powers of hell cannot prevail against the Light of the world. Christ did not remain in the grave, He rose on Easter morning and lives to all eternity as Victor over sin, death, and the devil.

Tonight, we hear and meditate on the words of Christ on the cross. In His final moments, He speaks the words “It is finished!” - simple words giving us unending hope. Praise be to Christ, who endured cross and torment - all of hell - for the forgiveness of our sins.

The noise at the end of the service signifies the closing of the tomb and the fact that Christ has paid God’s penalty for sin in our place. The mood of the service is somber. The service begins and ends in silence and meditation. The congregation joins in the hymns and in the responses after each time candles are extinguished. They also join in praying the Lord’s Prayer. Please leave the Sanctuary and the campus in silence after the service, meditating on the great things God has done for you and for all sinners.

Prelude

Stand

Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

439 sts. 1-3

Salutation and Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C And with

Opening Prayer

P We are gathered here tonight to remember the time that Jesus spent on the cross,

C **And the suffering that He endured in our place.**

A **Amen.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously be with us for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross that He might draw the whole world to Himself and as a result bring peace to all.. Grant that we who glory in His death for our forgiveness and life may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Reading

John 18:28–19:16

P Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, *“What accusation do you bring against this man?”* They answered him,

C **“If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.”**

P Pilate said to them, *“Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”* The Jews said to him

C **“It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.”**

P This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, *“Are you the King of the Jews?”* Jesus answered, *“Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?”* Pilate answered,

C “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”

P Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to him,

C “So you are a king?”

P Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him,

C “What is truth?”

P After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again,

C “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

P Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. Pilate then went out again and said to them,

C “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.”

P So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,

C “Crucify him, crucify him!”

P Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” The Jews answered him,

C “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”

P When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So, Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”

Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

C "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

P So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "*Behold your King!*" They cried out,

C "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!"

P Pilate said to them, "*Shall I crucify your King?*" The chief priests answered,

C "We have no king but Caesar."

P So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

C So they took Jesus,

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken 439 sts. 4, 5

Confession and Absolution

P Throughout these days of Lent, we have solemnly and reflectively followed Jesus' mission for the salvation of the world by bringing peace. Tonight, as we confront the culmination of Jesus' journey to the cross, we are compelled to face the harsh reality of our sin and the brokenness.

C Lord God, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness. We have failed to follow Your will. We have refused to obey Your law. We are unable to fulfill Your plan. We are crushed under the weight of our sin, and tonight the harsh reality of sin's horror hangs heavy around us. It is sin that made the cross necessary. It is our sin that required the Savior's death. Lord, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness.

P We need a Savior. It was sin that made the cross necessary, but it was love that drove Jesus to the cross and held Him there. It was love for you. Because of His love and His perfect sacrifice, your sins have been covered. The debt has been paid. The burden has been removed. As you hear and experience that Reality tonight, you know throughout that you have God's grace. You have God's forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken 439 sts. 6, 7

✠ SERVICE OF DARKNESS ✠

Sit

The First Word

Luke 23:32-34a

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And 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. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Meditation Prayer

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Prince of Peace. When You were mocked, You did not respond with harsh words. When You were tormented, You did not react in anger. When You were nailed to the cross, You prayed for the forgiveness of those who caused You to suffer. Give to us the virtues of gentleness, patience, and a forgiving spirit. Teach us also to love our enemies, and as children of the heavenly Father, to live in Your peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

447 sts. 1-3

Candles representing Judas Iscariot and James, the son of Alphaeus, are extinguished.

The Second Word

Luke 23:35-43

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!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "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 sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Meditation Prayer

P Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite mercy, You heard the plea of the dying thief on the cross next to You. We pray that You would open our hearts to welcome those who turn to You, and rejoice in their salvation. When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with You in paradise.

C Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

447 sts. 4-6

Candles representing Thomas and Peter are extinguished.

The Third Word

John 19:25–27

but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, 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 to his own home.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Meditation Prayer

P Lord Jesus Christ, while You suffered the agony of the cross, Your thoughts turned to the welfare of others. Your concern was for Your mother in her sorrow. We pray that You would regard with pity all parents who mourn the death of their children, and all parents who sorrow because their children have gotten into trouble or forsaken their faith. By the power of Your healing, we pray that parents and children know peace and that relationships be restored.

C Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

447 sts. 7-9

Candles representing Philip and Andrew are extinguished.

The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45–47

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 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?” And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Meditation Prayer

P Lord God, Father of all people and Creator of all that exists, You hold all people in Your power. We pray that You would not forsake the world that Your Son died to redeem. Even though we still see the influence of sin and evil all around us, assure us of Your continued presence in our midst. Help us to know Your love in our lives, so we can show Your presence to others.

C Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

447 sts. 10-12

Candles representing Bartholomew and Thaddaeus (Jude) are extinguished.

The Fifth Word

John 19:28–29

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

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Meditation Prayer

P Lord Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. When we find ourselves suffering, give us peace and patience to endure the pain that comes our way. Bring to our minds all that You endured for us, and give us the strength to bear our burdens by the grace of Your holy example.

C Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

447 sts. 13-15

Candles representing Simon the Zealot and Matthew are extinguished.

The Sixth Word

John 19:29–30

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

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Meditation Prayer

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father for the sake of us and the world. We pray that You would complete in us also everything that You intend for us, so that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for His glory.

C Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

447 sts. 16-18

Candles representing James and John the sons of Zebedee is extinguished.

The Seventh Word

Luke 23:44–46; Matthew 27:51

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

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Meditation Prayer

P Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your life on the cross in our place, You commended Your spirit into the loving hands of Your heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things. When our last hour comes, grant us peace, that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father.

C Amen.

Candles representing Mary Magdalen and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are extinguished.

Offering

Stand

Offertory



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offertory Prayer

P As You gave Your life as an offering to us that we may have forgiveness and life in You now and forever, accept these offerings as our thankfulness in realizing all we have comes from You and that You give us all we need to support our bodies and lives. Bless what is received that Your Word and the message of the cross and life found in our Savior alone nurture many here, and that Your Word go outside of this place to reach many in our community and beyond, that many who do not yet know Your love also look to the cross and be saved.

C Amen.

Reading

John 19:38–42

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Were You There

456 sts. 1-3

Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is removed symbolizing the death of Jesus.

Lord's Prayer *(Whispered)*

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.

Streptitus

(The loud, sudden sound following the Lord's Prayer is to symbolize the death of Jesus and the closing of the tomb. As we depart from this service in silent meditation, we remember our need for deliverance and forgiveness and the price paid for achieving and fulfilling God's promises. It is finished.)

Paschal Candle

(The Paschal Candle is returned to the sanctuary symbolizing that we look forward to the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday Morning.)

Silence for Meditation

We leave the sanctuary in silence looking forward to returning for Sunday's celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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“To Shine Forth the Light of God’s Love into Our World”