

# Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3, 2026

7:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Faribault, MN 55021



*(People enter the church in silence. The church is dimly lit.  
There is no preservice music. The candles on the altar are lit.)*

- P. The Order of Tenebrae is an early Christian worship service to be used in the observance of Good Friday. “Tenebrae” is a Latin word meaning “darkness” or “in the shadows”. The service is characterized by the gradual removal of light from the sanctuary as the Scriptural accounts are read that describe the suffering and death of our Lord. But Tenebrae is not a funeral service for Jesus! It is rather a time of repentance as we consider His love for us.

As the last candle is extinguished and the last lights are dimmed, noting the death of our Savior, a loud sound is heard. This represents that point in history when the tomb was closed. At that time worshippers may say a prayer silently and then depart. We ask that there be no speaking until you have left the church. This service, just like the Maundy Thursday service, does not conclude. They continue until we meet again to celebrate our Lord’s resurrection. As we quietly leave the church when the service is over, we return to our homes, contemplating the meaning of Christ’s death for us and certain of the Easter victory which we will soon celebrate.

## **OPENING HYMN “Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” LSB 428, sts. 1-4**

- P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C. **Amen**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- P. Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to reverently behold the agony of Your rejection, the pain of Your condemnation, and the horror of Your crucifixion.  
C. **Bring us to the places You walked and to the people You encountered on that Friday so long ago.**  
P. Stay with us Lord, as we witness Your suffering and listen to Your last words of love.  
C. **As we approach Calvary, let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against Your holy commandments.**

- P. Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from You in our thinking, speaking and doing,
- C. We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.**
- P. We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.
- C. O God, we have tried to hide from You and from one another.**
- P. We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.
- C. We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or place the blame on other people.**
- P. We can only say, "For the sake of Jesus, God, be merciful to me, a sinner." We can be sure that God has heard our confession and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, O God make Your face shine upon us!
- All Only then will we be saved!**

**CHOIR** "And This Is Love"

**OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

<sup>52:13</sup>Behold, my servant shall act wisely;  
he shall be high and lifted up,  
and shall be exalted.

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

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what they heard from us?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

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

*(continued...)*

<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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?

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup>Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out his soul to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

L. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING****Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

<sup>4:14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

<sup>5:7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup>And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

L. This is the word of the Lord.  
**C. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING****John 19: 17-30**

<sup>17</sup>[Jesus] went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

<sup>23</sup>When 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, <sup>24</sup>so 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, <sup>25</sup>but standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P. This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C. Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CHOIR** "Will You Go to Calvary"

**MEDITATION** "Treasury of Daily Prayer" (copyright 2008 CPH)  
by Athanasius of Alexandria  
*Pastor: The Rev. Scott Strohkirch*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P. Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You gather us together at the foot of Your Son's cross that we may join with the eyewitnesses of His death and behold His all-sufficient sacrifice for our redemption.
- C. Help us to know the real life that comes to us because of the wonderful exchange Jesus offered to us at the cross.**
- P. Lead us to see that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary.
- C. He was forsaken by You, dear Father, so that we might never be forsaken. He died so that we may live.**
- P. Lord Jesus, grant on this Friday we call "good" that the promises of Your Word may be received by us all with a living faith.
- C. Encourage our hearts and minds as we trust that all You accomplished at Calvary was done for our salvation.**
- P. Holy Spirit, You unite us by Baptism to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Guide us by Your grace to know the power of sharing in His death so that, with Him, we may partake in His resurrection.
- C. All glory, honor, and praise be to You, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever.**
- P. Into Your hands, we commit all for whom we pray.
- C. Amen**

**THE TENEBRAE  
WORDS FROM THE CROSS**

**FIRST WORD** "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

L. Message

**HYMN "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"** LSB 447, sts. 1-3  
*The first candle is extinguished.*

**SECOND WORD** "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise"  
(Luke 23:43)

L. Message

**HYMN "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"** LSB 447, sts. 4-6  
*The second candle is extinguished.*

**THIRD WORD** “Woman, behold your son, behold your mother.” (John 19:26-27)

L. Message

**HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”** LSB 447, sts. 7-9  
*The third candle is extinguished.*

**FOURTH WORD** “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

L. Message

**HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”** LSB 447, sts. 10-12  
*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

**FIFTH WORD** “I thirst.” (John 19:28)

L. Message

**HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”** LSB 447, sts. 13-15  
*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

**SIXTH WORD** “It is finished.” (John 19:30)

L. Message

**HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”** LSB 447, sts. 16-18  
*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

**SEVENTH WORD** “Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

L. Message

**HYMN “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”** LSB 447, sts. 19-21  
*The seventh candle is extinguished.*

**MEN’S CHOIR** “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”

P. Together, we pray softly,

**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**

*The Christ Candle is removed.*

(The removal of the Christ Candle symbolizes that our Savior hung in darkness for three God-forsaken hours before He died for the sins of the world and was laid in the tomb.)

*Shutting of the tomb*

**\* \* \* TO GOD BE THE GLORY \* \* \***

*(The congregation leaves the sanctuary silently, but returns Sunday morning rejoicing.)*

## **Acknowledgments**

Good Friday, Tenebrae

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