

“Our Lord’s Final Hours”
A Service of Tenebrae
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church ~ West Allis
March 25, 2016
1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

The service of Tenebrae is a service of growing darkness. Such a service is inspired by our Lord’s words when Judas betrayed Him and the mob came to take Him away with swords and clubs. Jesus said, “This is your hour, when darkness reigns.” (Luke 22:53b)

In this service we will follow Jesus during the final hours of His life, hours that led up to the atoning sacrifice for our sins which was accomplished in His death on the cross. From His prayer in the Garden, His arrest, the trials He endured, His being sentenced to death, and His holy passion and suffering on the cross, we remember all He went through . . . and that He went through it all because of His redeeming love for each of us . . . to deliver us from sin.

Our service begins with a brief rite of confession followed by a Good Friday Litany. After the litany, the service of Tenebrae will focus on the final 18 hours of Jesus’ life. May God, our Father, bless us as we ponder the great evil of our sin and the great depth of the Love of God for us in Jesus Christ.

Your Good Friday Offerings may be placed in the offering basket at the door.

The Toll

The ministers enter in silence

A Brief Order of Confession *Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24-25; John 10:10, 27-28*

PS: Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows

C: yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted.

PB: But He was pierced for our transgressions,

C: He was crushed for our iniquities;

PS: the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,

C: and by His wounds we are healed.

All: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all!

PB: He, Himself, bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

C: By His wounds we have been healed!

PS: Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand.”

C: By His wounds we have been healed!

All: Amen!

Prayer of the Day

PS: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, graciously receive us as your children for the sake of Jesus Christ, who was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer the death of crucifixion for each of us; for He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1:00 Choir Anthem

“Lamb of God”

Good Friday Litany

PS: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

PB: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

PS: God the Father, in heaven,

C: have mercy.

PB: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy.

PS: God the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy.

PB: Be gracious to us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

PS: In all time of tribulation,

in all time of prosperity,

in the hour of death and on the Day of Judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

PB: To prosper the preaching of your Word;

to bless our prayer and mediation;

to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;

to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance;

C: We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

PS: To draw all people to yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith;

to watch over and console the poor, the sick, and the distressed;

to bless and be with the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in

need of prayer; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy

on us all:

C: We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

PB: To turn our hearts to you;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and to graciously hear our prayers:

C: We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

PS: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

PB: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

PS: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Grant us your peace.

PB: O Christ,

C: hear us.

PS: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

PB: O Christ,.

C: have mercy on us.

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

**All: 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.**

1:00 Choir Anthem *“The Power of the Cross”*

6:00 Hymn #436 **“Go to Dark Gethsemane”** **Stanzas 1-3**

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

The Service of Tenebrae

Jesus’ Prayer in the Garden: Luke 22:39-46

Meditation #1: The Passionate Prayer of Jesus

Hymn #770 **“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”** **Stanzas 1-2**

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

The first candle is extinguished



The Arrest of our Lord Jesus Christ: Luke 22:47-52

Meditation #2: When Darkness Reigns

Hymn #543 **“What Wondrous Love is This”** **Stanzas 1-3**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and o the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

The second candle is extinguished



Jesus' Trial before the Sanhedrin: Matthew 26:57-75

Meditation #3: False Witnesses, Denial, and Injustice

Hymn #439 "O Dearest Jesus" Stanzas 1, 3, 5

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

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.

The third candle is extinguished



Jesus' Trail before Pilate and Herod: Luke 23:1-16

Meditation #4: The King of Kings and Two Earthly Kings

Hymn #512 "At the Name of Jesus" Stanzas 1, 3, 5

At the name of Jesus Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess Him King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, To receive a name
From the lips of sinners Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious When from death He passed;

In your hearts enthrone Him; There let Him subdue
All that is not holy, All that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain In temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you In its light and pow'r.

The fourth candle is extinguished



Jesus Flogged and Mocked at the Hands of Sinners: Matthew 27:27-31a; John 19:4-5

Meditation #5: An Innocent Man Beaten, Bloodied, and Mocked

Hymn #430 "My Song is Love Unknown" Stanzas 1, 4, 5

My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life They slay.
Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.

The fifth candle is extinguished



Jesus Handed over to be Crucified: John 19:6-22; Luke 23:26-43

Meditation #6: Crucified for the Sinners who Surrounded Him

Hymn #451 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His!
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.

Ye 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;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

The sixth candle is extinguished



The Death and Burial of our Lord: John 19:25-30a, Luke 23:46-56

Meditation #7: Finished

Closing Hymn #456

“Were You There”

Stanzas 1-3

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

The seventh candle is extinguished



The Lord’s Prayer (spoken softly)

The Toll

After the closing hymn and Lord’s Prayer, there will be a time for silent reflection upon the cross and upon our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died there for us. During this time, worshipers are encouraged to spend some time in personal prayer and confession, pondering the cost of sin and the riches of God’s love and grace in Christ. You may leave silently when you so choose.

Preacher

Pastor Harold Bender

Liturgist

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lector

Marc Stefanic

Acolyte

Aidyn Roska

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke