

GOOD FRIDAY

About Today's Service



Today's service, called a Service of Tenebrae (from the Latin word for "shadows" or "darkness"), is a Holy Week tradition dating back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. This devotional service often focuses on the words of Jesus as He dies on the cross, and after each of the seven parts of the service a candle is extinguished, making the sanctuary dimmer and dimmer until the congregation leaves in darkness and silence. Although the tone is somber as we reflect on our Lord's passion and death, there is an underlying joyful hope. The service is confessional and responsive—first we hear Jesus speak from the cross, then we hear and learn to speak from God in His Word (from the Psalms), and then we speak a response of faith by singing a hymn stanza or two. Our Lord speaks, then we respond—this is true confession. The Psalms are especially important because Jesus Himself quoted several Psalms during His time of suffering. The portions of the Passion story are drawn from all four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The service is made up entirely of God's Word (Bible readings) or hymn stanzas *drawn from* God's Word. How fitting, since everything in the Bible points to Christ and His death and resurrection for us!

The ministers enter in silence.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Place

They took Jesus to what was called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh and gall, but when He tasted it, He refused to drink it. They crucified Him there. At that time they crucified two robbers with Him, one at His right and the other at His left, and Jesus in the middle. It was nine in the morning when they crucified Him.



We Come, Too (LSB435)



**Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore, They that drink shall thirst no more.**

Jesus Speaks: The first statement

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

God Gives Us Words to Speak—Psalm 32:1-7

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him

and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent,

my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to You

and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—

and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to You while You may be found;

surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

You are my hiding place;

You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

We Speak a Response of Faith (tune = *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*, LSB440)

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone, Make me see Your Passion;

But its cause to me make known And its termination.

For I also and my sin Brought Your deep affliction;

This the shameful cause has been Of Your crucifixion.

**If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm,
Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy Passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!**

The First Candle is Extinguished.

Meditation

The Response of the People

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier, throwing dice for them to see what each one should get, and the tunic was left over. The tunic was without a seam, woven in one piece from top to bottom. They said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but let's throw dice and see who gets it." In this way what the Scripture said was fulfilled: "They divided My clothes among them, and for My garment they threw dice." So that is what the soldiers did. Then they sat down there and kept watch over Him.

Pilate also wrote a notice, the accusation that had been written against Him. They placed it above His head on the cross. It read:

**THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH
THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

Many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

Therefore, the ruling priests of the Jews told Pilate, "Do not write: 'The King of the Jews,' but: 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered "What I have written I have written."

The people stood there watching. Those who passed by ridiculed Him shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You who are going to tear down the Temple and build it in three days – save Yourself if You are the Son of God. Come down from the cross!"

In the same way, the ruling priests together with the scribes and elders were sneering and made fun of Him among themselves and said, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He should save Himself if He is the Christ whom God has chosen. He is Israel's King – He should come down from the cross now, and we shall believe Him. He has put His trust in God – let God rescue Him now if He so wishes, for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "

The soldiers also made fun of Him when they went up to Him and offered Him sour wine. They said, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

We Speak a Response of Faith (tune = *O Sacred Head*, LSB450)

**O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded, With thorns Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine!**

Jesus Speaks: The second statement

In the same way, the robbers who were crucified with Him also were insulting Him. One of the criminals who were hanging there was mocking Him: "Aren't You the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

But the other, warning him, asked, "Aren't you afraid of God? You are condemned just as He is. Our punishment is just, for we are getting what we deserve for what we've done, but this One has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to him, "today you will be with me in paradise."

God Gives Us Words to Speak—Psalm 16:8-11

I have set the LORD always before me.

**Because He is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

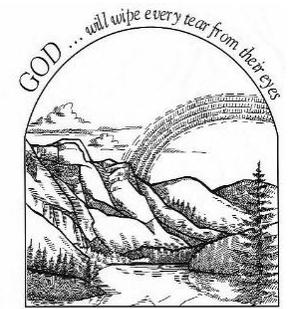
my body also will rest secure,

because You will not abandon me to the grave,

nor will You let your Holy One see decay.

You have made known to me the path of life;

**You will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**



There will be no more death or
mourning or crying or pain.

Revelation 21:4

We Speak a Response of Faith (tune= *O Dearest Jesus*, LSB439)

**And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
I, too, shall praise Thee!**

The second candle is extinguished.

Meditation

Jesus Speaks: The third statement

Now His mother and His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary from Magdala were standing near the cross of Jesus.

Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near. "Woman," He said to His mother, "there is Your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "There is your mother!"

From that time on, the disciple took her into his own home.

God Gives Us Words to Speak—Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness

for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



We Speak a Response of Faith (tune = *O Sacred Head*, LSB450)

What language shall I borrow

To thank Thee, dearest Friend,

For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?

O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,

Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

The third candle is extinguished.

Meditation

Jesus Speaks: The fourth statement

It was about noon when darkness came over the whole land— lasting until three in the afternoon, because the sun stopped shining.

About three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

When they heard Him say that, some of those standing nearby said, "Listen! He's calling Elijah."

God Gives Us Words to Speak—Psalm 22:1-11

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

**Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?**

O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, and am not silent.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;

you are the praise of Israel.

In you our fathers put their trust;

they trusted and you delivered them.

They cried to you and were saved;

in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

Yet you brought me out of the womb;

you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

From birth I was cast upon you;

from my mother's womb you have been my God.

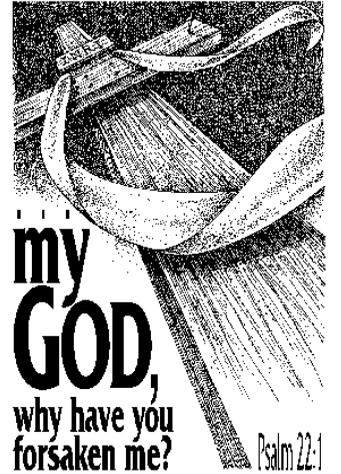
Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

We Make the Prayer Our Own—"Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me"

**Lord, why have You forsaken me, And why are You so far away
From my complaint and my distress Poured out before You night and day.**

**Yet You are holy, and the songs Of praise of Israel are Your throne;
When our forefathers called on You, You saved them, rescued all Your own.**



**But I am mocked and put to scorn, All those who see me laugh and say,
“You trust in God, so let us see The help of Him to whom you pray.”**

**Yet You, O LORD, have been my God And only hope since I was born;
Trouble is near Me, none can help; My Savior, leave me not forlorn.**

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Meditation

(1:00) Anthem—*Ah, Holy Jesus* (arr. by Hal Hopson)

Latin text: *Miserere nobis.* “Have mercy upon us.”

Jesus Speaks: The fifth statement

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to have the words of Scripture come true, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. Immediately one of the men ran, took a sponge, soaked it in sour wine, put it on a hyssop stem, held it to Jesus’ mouth, and offered Him a drink. The others said, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to save Him.”

God Gives Us Words to Speak—Psalm 42:1-5

As the deer pants for streams of water,

so my soul pants for You, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my food day and night,

while men say to me all day long,

“Where is your God?”

These things I remember as I pour out my soul—how I used to go with the multitude,

**leading the procession to the house of God, with
shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive
throng.**

Why are you downcast, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.



We Speak a Response of Faith (tune = *O Sacred Head*, LSB450)

**Love caused Your incarnation, Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Meditation

Jesus Speaks: The sixth statement

When Jesus had taken the wine, He said, “It is finished!”

God Gives Us Words to Speak—Psalm 71:1-5, 19-21

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in Your righteousness;

turn Your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;

give the command to save me,

for You are my rock and my fortress.

Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of evil and cruel men.

For You have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD,

my confidence since my youth.

Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God,

You who have done great things. Who, O God, is like You?

Though You have made me see troubles, many and bitter, You will restore my life again;

from the depths of the earth You will again bring me up.

You will increase my honor

and comfort me once again.

We Speak a Response of Faith (tune= *Go to Dark Gethsemane*, LSB436)

**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 sixth candle is extinguished.

Meditation



Jesus Speaks: The seventh statement

And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit." After He said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

God Gives Us Words to Speak—Psalm 31

In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge;

**let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in Your righteousness.**

Turn your ear to me,

come quickly to my rescue;

be my rock of refuge,

a strong fortress to save me.

Since You are my rock and my fortress,

for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Free me from the trap that is set for me,

for You are my refuge.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;

redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

I will be glad and rejoice in Your love,

for You saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

You have not handed me over to the enemy

but have set my feet in a spacious place.

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning;

**my strength fails because of my affliction,
and my bones grow weak.**

For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side;

they conspire against me and plot to take my life.

But I trust in You, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God."

My times are in Your hands;

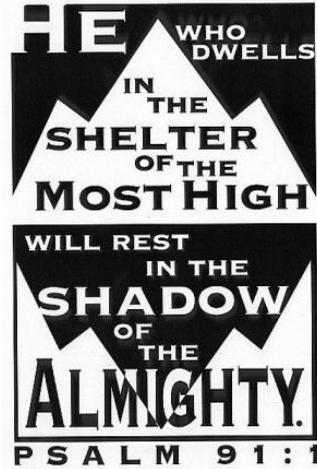
deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

Let Your face shine on Your servant;

save me in Your unfailling love.

Let me not be put to shame, O LORD,

for I have cried out to You.



How great is Your goodness,

**which You have stored up for those who fear You,
which You bestow in the sight of men**

on those who take refuge in You.

In the shelter of your presence You hide them from the intrigues of men;

in Your dwelling You keep them safe from accusing tongues.

Praise be to the LORD,

**for He showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a
besieged city.**

In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from Your sight!"

Yet You heard my cry for mercy when I called to You for help.

Love the LORD, all His saints!

The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud

He pays back in full.

Be strong and take heart,

all you who hope in the LORD.

We Speak a Response of Faith (tune = *O Sacred Head*, LSB450)

Lord, till we see the ending Of all this life's distress,

Faith's hand, love's sinews strengthen,

With joy our spirits bless.

As yours, we have committed Ourselves into Your care

On ways made sure to bring us

To heav'n to praise You there.

(1:00) **Anthem**—*In a Borrowed Tomb*

The congregation observes a time of silence and meditation on Christ's saving work and departs in silence and continued meditation.

Preacher

Pastor Tim Prince

Officiant

Pastor Harold Bender

Lectors

John Ficken, Pam Akey

Acolyte

Sophia Novotny

Organist

Michelle Prince

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke