

**“Playing Games Under The Cross”
A Service of Tenebrae**

**St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & School
April 3, 2015
1:00 & 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)

Today we remember that “hour of darkness,” the darkness of our sin, the darkness of injustice, the darkness of the death of God’s only Son – His Holy and Righteous Son, who was crushed for our iniquities. Jesus endured the darkness that we might be delivered out of the darkness and into His Marvelous Light.

Our service begins a brief rite of confession followed by the Scripture readings. After the sermon, the service of Tenebrae will focus on Jesus seven “Words” from the cross. May God bless us as we ponder the Darkness of Sin and the Love of God for us in Jesus.

The ministers enter in silence

Rise

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

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

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

PS: But He was pierced for our transgressions,

C: He was crushed for our iniquities;

PB: 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!

PS: 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!

PB: 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.” For the sake of the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us all, all your sins have been forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: By His wounds we have been healed!

All: Amen!

Prayer of the Day

PB: 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.

Be Seated

Hymn #434

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him-- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness-- so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was

taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

1:00 Choir Anthem

"Lenten Sanctus" Lee Dengler

6:00 Hymn #744

"Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

Sermon

"Playing Games Under The Cross"

John 19:23-24

Offering As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

Rise

Good Friday Litany

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

C: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: O Christ, hear us.

C: O Christ, hear us.

P: O God, the Father in heaven, Creator of all,

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: O God, the Son, Savior and Redeemer of the world,

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: O God, the Holy Spirit, comforter and guide,

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: Be gracious unto us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: Deliver us by your grace;

C: Save us from our sins.

P: In times of trouble and distress, in times of trial and temptation,

C: Grant us your strength.

P: In times of sickness and affliction, pain and suffering,

C: Sustain us, comfort us, and lift us up.

P: In all the days of our earthly pilgrimage,

C: Be with us and grant us your peace.

P: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: We beseech you to hear us.

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

C: Have mercy upon us.

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

C: Have mercy upon us.

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

C: Grant us your peace.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Be Seated

The Service of Tenebrae

The Tenebrae service is a service that calls us to reflect upon the increasing darkness that was evident in all the circumstances and course of events that led our Lord to the cross of Calvary. Therefore, as we progress through this portion of the service, the candles will be progressively extinguished as will also the lighting of the church. A portion of Scripture which records one of our Lord's dying words will be read, followed by singing of our Lord's passion for us.

The First Word from the Cross

The Word of **Forgiveness:** Luke 23:33-38

Hymn #439 *“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”* Stanzas 1, 3, & 4

1. 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?
3. 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.
4. What punishment so strange is suffered yonder:
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.
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The first candle is extinguished



The Second Word from the Cross

The Word of **Promised Paradise:** Luke 23:39-43

Hymn #453 *“Upon the Cross Extended”* Stanzas 1 & 5 (tune LSB #121)

1. Upon the cross extended see, world, your Lord suspended.
Your Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven Himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.
5. Your soul in griefs unbounded, Your head with thorns surrounded,
You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring, the crown for me securing,
You healed my wounds and set me free. Public Domain

The second candle is extinguished



The Third Word from the Cross

The Word of **Loving Compassion for His Own:** John 19:23-27

Hymn #425 *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* Stanzas 1 & 3

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?

The third candle is extinguished



The Fourth Word from the Cross

The Word of **Rejection:** Matthew 27:45-46

Hymn #451 *“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”* Stanzas 1 & 2

1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree!
This is 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: He's the true and faithful Word.
2. 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.

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The fourth candle is extinguished



The Fifth Word from the Cross

The Word of **Life Dried Up:** John 19:28-29

Hymn #451 *“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”* Stanzas 3 & 4

3. 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.
4. Here we have a firm foundation; here the refuge of the lost;
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, His 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. Public Domain

The fifth candle is extinguished



The Sixth Word from the Cross

The Word of **Fulfillment**: John 19:30

Hymn #449 *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

Stanzas 1 & 4

- 1 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!

- 4. Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee, who dieth thus dies well.

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The sixth candle is extinguished



The Seventh Word from the Cross

The Word of **Trust**: Luke 23:46-49

The seventh candle is extinguished



Closing Hymn #456 *“Were You There?”*

Stanzas 1-3

- 1. 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?

- 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?

- 3. Were you there when they laid Him in a tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in a tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in a tomb?

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The Lord’s Prayer (*prayed softly*)

1:00 Choir Anthem *“We Who Have Sinned”* Robert Leaf

We, who have sinned, now need your grace; Grant us your peace.
We who have sinned come in prayer. We, who have sinned, now need your grace;
Grant us your peace. We, who have sinned, come in prayer.
Lord, grant us peace, Grant us your peace.

After the 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

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolyte

Organist

Choir Director 1:00

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Laurel Privatt, Russell Hurst

Thomas Kadolph

Roger Gottschalk

Nancy Hoelke

Kim Woller

Holy Week Worship

Easter Vigil April 4 5:00pm

Easter Celebration April 5 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00am

Easter Breakfast 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall