

“Buried Under the Weight of Sin”

A Service of Tenebrae

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & School

April 18, 2014

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)

Tonight 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

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.” 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.

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

Amos 9:1-6

I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and he said: "Strike the tops of the pillars so that the thresholds shake. Bring them down on the heads of all the people; those who are left I will kill with the sword. Not one will get away, none will escape. Though they dig down to the depths of the grave, from there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to the heavens, from there I will bring them down. Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, there I will hunt them down and seize them. Though they hide from me at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent to bite them. Though they are driven into exile by their enemies, there I will command the sword to slay them. I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good."

The Lord, the LORD Almighty, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who live in it mourn-- the whole land rises like the Nile, then sinks like the river of Egypt-- he who builds his lofty palace in the heavens and sets its foundation on the earth, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land-- the LORD is his name.

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 Vocal Choir

“Silently, Tears Were Flowing”

Silently, tears were flowing down the Savior's eyes. As he prayed, "Thy will be done," his tears could not be denied. His disciples were with him in dark Gethsemane. Silently, tears were flowing, tears of agony. Silently, tears were flowing down the Savior's cheeks as he prayed, "Thy will be done," while hanging on a tree. The soldiers were mocking him at cruel Calvary. Silently, tears were flowing, tears for you and me. Silently, silently, silently, silently as he prayed, "Thy will be done," the crowd cried out in hate! With thieves on either side, deserving of their fate, silently, tears were flowing, tears of love and grace, tears of love, tears of love and grace. Silently the tears were flowing, tears of love and grace.

Reading from the Holy Gospel

John 19:17-42

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others-- one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a

sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

1:00 Vocal Choir

“In a Borrowed Tomb”

In a borrowed tomb friends laid His body down; Christ, the Lord of all, had put aside His crown. He chose the cross, He chose the pain, He chose to take away my sin and shame. In a borrowed tomb friends laid His body down. In a borrowed tomb He was but a guest; Christ, the Lord of all, His love had been expressed. He chose the cross, He chose the pain, He chose to take away my sin and shame. In a borrowed tomb He was but a guest; In a borrowed tomb His lifeless body lay; Christ, the Lord of all, sin's awesome debt was paid. He chose the cross, He chose the pain, He chose to take away my sin and shame. In a borrowed tomb friends laid His body down. O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown: how You are pale with anguish, with such abuse and scorn! How Your expression suffers which once was bright as morn! In a borrowed tomb His lifeless body lay; Christ, the Lord of all, sin's awesome debt was paid. He chose the cross, He chose the pain, He chose to take away my sin and shame. In a borrowed tomb friends laid His body down in a tomb.

6:00 Solo

“Truly This Man Was the Son of God”

Sermon

“Buried” – Amos 9:1-6

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.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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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.

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The second candle is extinguished



The Third Word from the Cross

The Word of **Loving Compassion for His Own:** John 19:25-27

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 stoke 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.

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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*) 8

After the closing hymn, 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
Lector 6:00
Acolyte 6:00
Organist
Choir Director 1:00
Soloist 6:00*

*Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Bob Reynolds
Macky Wessler
Roger Gottschalk
Nancy Hoelke
Pastor Emeritus Thomas Hinz*



Easter Vigil
Saturday April 19th at 5:00 pm

Easter Celebration
Sunday April 20th at 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00am

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church
7821 W. Lincoln Avenue West Allis, WI 53219
414-541-6250 www.splcwa.org*