

We welcome everyone who has come to worship with us this evening. Tonight, we will be observing a variation of an ancient form of Good Friday worship known as a Tenebrae Service. In the early Christian Church, a Tenebrae Service was held in remembrance of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus. During this ancient service a candle was extinguished after each Scripture reading was completed - symbolic of the isolation and suffering of our Lord, and of the dark evil of the sins for which He died.

The word
"tenebrae" is a
Latin word
meaning
"darkness" or
"shadows."

In our worship this evening we continue that ancient tradition with an adaptation of such a service. During the second half of the service one candle will be extinguished after each of the seven readings are completed, progressively darkening the church. At the end of the service, one candle will remain burning. This is the Christ candle. This candle will remain lighted at the end of the service to symbolize the assurance of His resurrection after three days in the tomb. Our Savior was not overcome by death, but rather He overcame sin and hell through death. When Jesus died on the cross, God's love for mankind did not die. That is why the Christ candle remains lighted. The burial of our Savior only serves to heighten our anticipation of Easter morning, when Jesus would be raised from death to give us confidence in the forgiveness of sins and life eternal.

Though the death of our Savior has now removed the threat and terror of death for us sinners, Good Friday remains a most solemn observance. This is a time for prayerful reflection on the part of God's Children. Though you may find it difficult to see and read by the end of the service, this serves also to remind us of our spiritual blindness apart from Christ Jesus our Lord. May God bless your meditation and worship this evening.

Invitation - We pray that our service this evening brings you to a greater understanding of the sacrifice Jesus made for you by bearing your sins and the sins of the world – and making full payment for them – through His death on the cross. Thanks be to God for His work of salvation! We invite you to join us this Sunday for the continuation of this Good Friday service. Our service will begin at 11:00am on Sunday morning.



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church Madison Heights, MI

A Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

Pastor Thomas Naumann

www.mtzionlutheran.info

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

March 30, 2018 – 7:00pm

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 143:1-5 (red hymnal): *O Dearest Jesus*

The Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

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

C Amen.

P God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, no, not one. (*Psalms 53:2-3*)

C **Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight— Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. (*Psalms 51:4-5*)**

P But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (*1 John 2:1b-2*)

C **Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. (*Micah 7:18*)**

P The LORD also has put away your sin. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith. (*2 Samuel 12:13b; 1 Peter 5:6-9*)

C Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (*Psalms 103:1-5*)

Response: (*Hymn 394:1-2*)

1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry, Sav - iour di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way; 2. May Thy rich grace im-part Strength to my faint-ing heart, My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine. Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire. A - MEN.

Harmony Reading: *Good Friday – Part 7*

Confession of Faith: (*Smalcald Articles, Part II, Article I*)

We boldly confess what we believe.

C The first and chief article is this, that Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins, and was raised again for our justification. And He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And God has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all. Likewise: All have sinned and are justified without merit (freely, and without their own works or merits) by His grace, through the

redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood. Now, since it is necessary to believe this, and it cannot be otherwise acquired or apprehended by any work, law, or merit, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us as St. Paul says, "For we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law. That He might be just, and the Justifier of him who believes in Christ." Of this article nothing can be yielded or surrendered nor can anything be granted or permitted contrary to it, even though heaven and earth and whatever will not abide, should sink to ruin. "For there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved," says Peter. And with His stripes we are healed.

Hymn 150 (red hymnal): *Lord Jesus, Thou art Going Forth*

Congregation sings verses 1,3,5. Soloist Randy Wittorp sings verses 2,4.

The Sermon: *Hebrews 9:11-14*

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

**Keep Your Eyes on Jesus:
He is our Eternal Redemption**



Response: (Hymn 724 sung twice)

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

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The Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church – The Lord’s Prayer

Order of Holy Communion

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** I will go to the altar of God,
- C** **To God my exceeding joy.**
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **Who made heaven and earth.**
- P** Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as the apostle Paul urges us to do, for this Holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God’s wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness. I now ask you before God, who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment? -- Then declare so by saying: “I do confess.”
- C** **I do confess.**
- P** Truly, you should confess; for the Holy Scriptures declare: “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” Do you repent of all your

sins committed in thought, word, and deed? Then declare so by saying: "I do repent."

C I do repent.

P Truly, you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman, the prodigal son, and others. Do you believe that God, by grace, forgives you of all your sins, only because of what Jesus did for you? Then declare so by saying: "I do believe."

C I do believe.

P Truly, you should so believe, for Holy Scriptures declare: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Will you, with the help of the Holy Spirit, strive to lead a godly life from this time forward? Then declare so by saying: "I will so strive, with the help of God."

C I will so strive, with the help of God.

P Truly, you should so strive, for Christ, the Lord, says: *"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive Christ's forgiveness for all your sins? Then declare so by saying: "I do believe."

C I do believe.

P As you believe, even so may it be unto you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Words of Institution and Distribution

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon the Bible passages in **1 Corinthians 1:10, 11:26-30**. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

Note: *Following the next hymn, the lights will be turned off while the final Scripture passages are read. At the end of each reading a candle will be put out. This is to show the increasing agony and darkness that our Savior suffered for us, until finally, He willingly gave up His life for us.*

If you wish, you may remain in the church for personal meditation following the service. Please refrain from speaking until you have left the sanctuary, and out of respect for those wishing to remain, please greet each other quietly outside of the church. As you leave, it would be fitting to think of those events that occurred on that first Good Friday and of the victory that our Savior won for us by His death.

Hymn 154 (red hymnal): *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*

The Good Friday Tenebrae Readings

First Scripture Reading: *Mark 15:1-5*

Second Scripture Reading: *Mark 15:6-15*

Third Scripture Reading: *Mark 15:16-20*

Fourth Scripture Reading: *Mark 15:21-26*

Fifth Scripture Reading: *Mark 15:27-32*

Sixth Scripture Reading: *Mark 15:33-41*

Seventh Scripture Reading: *Mark 15:42-46*

Silent Prayer

Quiet Exit