

Drawn to the Cross



**Good Friday, April 10, 2020 // 7pm Worship
Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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 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 live streamed 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 remotely this Sunday for the continuation of this Good Friday service. Our service will be live streamed at 10:00am on Sunday morning.

Tonight's Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 159 (red hymnal): *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

1. *Go to dark Gethsemane,
Ye that feel the Tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away,
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.*

2. *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 suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of Him to bear the cross.*

3. *Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" bear Him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.*

4. *Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom,--
Who hath taken Him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.*

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. (*Psalm 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.** (*Psalm 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 390:1,3*)

*1. Drawn to the Cross,
which Thou hast blest*

*With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ Crucified, I come.*

3. Wash me and

take away each stain;

Let nothing of my sin remain.

*For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ Crucified, I come.*

Passion Harmony Reading: *Lesson Seven*

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

1. *Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?*

2. *Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!*

3. *Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin.*

4. *Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.*

5. *But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.*

LENTEN MEDITATION

Drawn to the Cross

Jesus' Cross Is My Triumph Over Sin

- I. Because of the cross, the Law can no longer condemn us*
II. Because of the cross, Satan and hell have no power over us

^{NIV84} **Colossians 2:13-15** When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Proper Preface for Lent (TLH p.25): Who on the tree of the cross didst give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ our Lord...

Response: (Hymn 724 sung twice)



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

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

Prayer of the Church – The Lord’s Prayer

C 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.

The Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.
- C** Amen!

Note: Following the next hymn, the lights will be turned off while the final Scripture passages are read. You are encouraged to dim the lights in your own home as well. 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.

After the final reading, the pastor will exit silently. You are encouraged sit quietly for some time to ponder upon those events that occurred on that first Good Friday and of the victory that our Savior won for us by His death.

Hymn 153 (red hymnal): *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*

**1. *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.***

**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 interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.***

**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's 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.***

The Good Friday Tenebrae Readings

First Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:24-26*

Second Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:27-31*

Third Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:32-37*

Fourth Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:38-44*

Fifth Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:45-49*

Sixth Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:50-56*

Seventh Scripture Reading: *Matthew 27:57-60*

Silent Prayer



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