

April 2, 2021



GOOD FRIDAY

IT IS FINISHED



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

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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 10:00am on Sunday morning.

Tonight's Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 159 (TLH): *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 Invocation and the Confession and Absolution of Sins

We call upon the name of God and come before Him 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 724 sung twice*



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

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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 143:1-5 (TLH): *O Dearest Jesus*

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?

2. They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;

With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;

They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.

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.

5. The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;

The sinful child of man may live in gladness;

Man forfeited his life and is acquitted, -- God is committed.

LENTEN MEDITATION

"IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS"

The Chief Priests Thought It Was All Over

Matthew 27:62-66 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.'⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can."⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Prayer of the Church – The Lord’s Prayer

The petitions of the congregation are gathered and presented to the Lord.

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

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

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 Scriptures 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 (TLH): *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.**

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



*We welcome our worshipers in the name of Jesus,
through Whose suffering and death we have obtained forgiveness of sins and
eternal life, and Whose resurrection we look forward to celebrating on
Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:00am.*

Offering Announcement: The normal collection of the offering has been omitted from this service. If you have a special Lenten offering that you wish to contribute, please deposit it in the gold plate on the hymnal rack or use the \$CashApp on your mobile device. The church's \$cashtag is "\$clcmztion".

