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April 3, 2026

Good Friday Tenebrae

A close-up photograph of a crown of thorns, showing the sharp, dark thorns and the lighter, textured material of the crown. The background is dark and out of focus.

Crucified for Me!

Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 22 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Welcome (Pastor) - Good evening and welcome to our Good Friday Tenebrae service. *Tenebrae* is a Latin term meaning “*shadows, darkness.*” This service is an ancient form of worship dating from the fourth century. During this service the sanctuary is gradually darkened and the seven candles are gradually extinguished to remind us of the “seven words,” or phrases, Jesus spoke from the cross, and the three hours of darkness which blanketed the earth during Christ’s crucifixion as He suffered the punishment of being forsaken by God for our sins. The darkness of Good Friday prepares us for the brilliant dawning of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter.

This is a service of meditation and silence, commemorating what is the most solemn day of the church year. We will hear Isaiah’s prophecy of the suffering Servant and the account of the passion of our Lord. At the end of the service pause to reflect on the unsurpassed, divine love which caused the Son of God to sacrifice Himself for us.

Invocation & Opening Prayer

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

C let my cry come to You!

P Holy Father, on this day Your Son Jesus carried the burden of our sin to the cross, there to suffer and die for the darkness of our trespasses. Your love for us is so great that You sacrificed Your only Son in our place. He willingly took the guilt, pain, and punishment that we so rightfully deserve. The darkness of His death gives us the light of salvation through faith. For this we give You the praise, honor, and glory due Your most holy name.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn: 454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

LSB 454

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 53:1-6

*The responsive reading of **Isaiah 53:1-6** a prophecy of the suffering and death of Christ Jesus for the sins of all people.*

P Who has believed our message

C and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

P He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

C and like a root out of dry ground.

P He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

C nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

P He was despised and rejected by men,

C a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

P Like one from whom men hide their faces

C he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

P Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

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

P But he was pierced for our transgressions,

C he was crushed for our iniquities;

P the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

C and by his wounds we are healed.

P We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

C and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Confession and Absolution

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

P Let us now confess our sins to God our Father.

C Gracious God, You know our frailty. You understand our weakness.
You are acquainted with our failures.

Though we have professed to believe, we betray our Lord by our actions.

→

**Though we have promised to follow, we deny Christ by our selfishness.
 Though we have vowed to be faithful,
 we desert our Savior by our own desires.
 We have lived for ourselves and abandoned those in need.
 We have refused to bear the troubles of others.
 In Your great mercy, forgive our sins, free us from all evil,
 and enable us to live for You, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P God's Word tells us, that although we were "dead in our trespasses...He has made us alive together with Him, having forgiven us all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14).
 Now, with boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. May God give us grace to live according to His will.

C Amen.

451 v. 1, 4 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, See Him dy-ing on the
 4 Here we have a firm foun-da-tion, Here the ref-uge of the
 tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; Yes, my
 lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal-va-tion, Is the
 soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed
 name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin-ners
 Proph-et, Da-vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
 wound-ed, Sac-ri-fice to can-cel guilt! None shall
 see suf-fi-cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith-ful Word.
 ev-er be con-found-ed Who on Him their hope have built.

“Jesus, My Righteousness, Crucified For Me”

I. Righteousness, betrayed for me (Reader: Ben Blue)

Extinguishing of the first candle.

Hymn: 436 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

LSB 436

II. Righteousness, condemned for me (Reader: Joel Gerbitz)

Extinguishing of the second candle.

Confession of Faith: 2nd Article of the Apostle’s Creed (Luther’s Catechism, Sydow p. 87)

**☩ “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sin, from death,
and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

This is most certainly true!”

Hymn: "His Robes for Mine"

CW21 568

1 His robes for mine: O won - der - ful ex - change!
2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?

Clothed in my sin, Christ suf - fered 'neath God's rage.
God's daunt - ing law Christ mas - tered in my stead.

Draped in his right - eous - ness, I'm jus - ti - fied.
Fault - less I stand with right - eous works not mine,

In Christ I live, for in my place he died. *Refrain*
saved by my Lord's vi - car - ious death and life.

**3 His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "Tis done!"
Sin's wage is paid, propitiation won.**

Refrain

**4 His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though his foe.
He, as though, I accursed and left alone;
I, as though he, embraced and welcomed home!**
Refrain

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971
Music: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

Text and music: © 2008 Church Works Media

Refrain

I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost:
Je - sus for - sak - en, God es - tranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.
My praise— my all— shall be for Christ a - lone.

III. Righteousness, rejected for me (Reader: Levi Schaller)

Extinguishing of the third candle.

Hymn: 456 *Were You There*

LSB 456

IV. Righteousness, prophesied for me (Reader: Fred Goodrie)

Extinguishing of the fourth candle.

Choir Song: “My Song is Love Unknown”

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew his way And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their king.
Then “Crucify” Is all their breath, And for his death They thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done To cause this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, And gave the blind their sight.
What injuries! Yet these are why The Lord most high So cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing Of him my soul adores.
Never was love, dear king, Never was grief like yours!
This is my friend In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend.

V. Righteousness, crucified for me (Reader: Paul Tiefel)

Extinguishing of the fifth candle.

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

✚ **Note:** The offering plate will not be passed around this evening. If you have an offering to give to the Lord, please place it in one of the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

VI. Righteousness, speaking for me (Reader: Philip Reim)

Extinguishing of the sixth candle.

Extinguishing of sanctuary Lights.

A minute of silence.

Hymn: "The Seven Words"

436 CW21

VII. Righteousness, buried for me (Reader: Eric Williams)

Extinguishing of the seventh candle.

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- P** Go now into the darkness of night. Though we walk in darkness,
we are not forsaken. We are led by the hand of God.
May the love of God the Father calm your fears.
May the grace of our Lord Jesus keep you through the night.
May the presence of the Holy Spirit sustain you throughout your life.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

(The congregation softly speaks the Lord's Prayer)

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- G** **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 Sealing of the Tomb

Tolling of the Bell 33 Times

† *In observance of our Savior's death,*
worshippers are asked to leave the service in silence. †

Announcements



Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this evening.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.



Sunday: *Easter Sunday – Resurrection Day*
4/5/26 **Worship – 9am**
Easter Brunch – 10:15am

Church Cleaning: Team #4 (4/4-4/10)

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