

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Good Friday - Tenebrae Service

April 18, 2025 - 7:00pm

Suffering

As We Gather

God’s people around the world gather on this solemn day to recall the greatest sacrifice of love the world has ever known. Even the anticipation of our Lord’s resurrection cannot diminish the horror of seeing the incarnate Lamb of God hanging on a cross, becoming our sin for us sinners, shedding His blood for the atonement of all creation. “It is finished,” hear Him cry; “learn of Jesus Christ to die,” we sing (TLH 159). All that the Lamb of God came to accomplish for our redemption was completed in His bloody suffering and death.

In the darkness of Good Friday, the totality of human sin - from the sin of Adam and Eve to the last sin of the last human being - was gathered up and placed upon Jesus. He bore the full weight of it as He became sin for sinners. In doing so, our Lord also bore divine penalty, thus bringing upon Himself the wounds by which sinners are healed.

The Eternal Lamp in our Sanctuary represents the eternal presence of God. On this day the Lamp is unlit, as a reminder that God truly did forsake His Son on the Cross on Good Friday, so that we, His children, would never be forsaken by Him.

The candles on the altar were made to the glory of God by the children of our Lenten children’s workshops. These candles represent the hope of the resurrection and symbolize that even in the midst of death and darkness the forces of hell shall not prevail against the light of Christ. For this reason, there is no benediction at the end of the service for it is not over until we stand three days hence at the open and empty tomb.

Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, Jesus Christ, we will never know the full extent of Your suffering for us. Because You asked Your Father to forgive those who put You on the cross, we know that our sins have also been forgiven. Because You promised the criminal who believed in Your everlasting life, we have the assurance that, in spite of our sins, we too may have eternal life. Because You were forsaken by God the Father, we know that we shall never be forsaken. Because You thirsted for us, we now have the water of everlasting life. Because of Your declaration that the work of redemption was finished, we no longer need to be doubtful about our salvation. Through Your yielding up Your spirit to death, we have life. Amen.

Holy Cross Responsory

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
C: Oh, come, let us worship Him.
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C: Oh, come, let us worship Him.
P: Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end. (John 13:1)

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:10

Hymn 140

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

[First set of candles are extinguished.]

1.
- Jesus, I will ponder now on Thy holy Passion;
With Thy Spirit me endow, for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
Of Thy suff’ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.

2.
- Make me see Thy great distress, anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness and Thy crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound Thee,
How for man Thou diedst, O God, Who with thorns had crowned Thee.

Good Friday Psalm

[Psalm 22 is known as the “Psalm of the Cross.” Our responsive readings demonstrate that most clearly. The Psalm begins with Jesus’ words from the Cross, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”]

- P:
- “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?” (Psalm 22:1)
- C:
- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “my God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)**
- P:
- “O my God, I cry in the daytime, but You answer not; and by night I find no rest. But You who dwell in the holy place where the praises of Israel are offered. Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted and You delivered them. They cried to You and were delivered; they trusted, and were not disappointed. But I am a worm, and no man; I am the scorn of men, and despised by the people.” (Psalm 22:2-6)
- C:
- He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief: and as one from Whom men hid their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him. (Isaiah 53:3)**

Anthem

O Sacred Head Now Wounded - McDonald

Chancel Choir

[Second set of candles are extinguished.]

- P:
- “All who see me laugh at me and mock me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,”
- C:
- And those who passed by spoke abusively and jeered at Him, wagging their heads, and they said, “You who would tear down the sanctuary and rebuild it in three days, rescue yourself from death. If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” (Matthew 27:39-40)**
- P:
- He trusted in the Lord, that He would deliver Him. Let Him deliver Him, seeing He delights in Him. (Psalm 22:8)*
- C:
- In the same way the chief priests with the scribes and elders made sport of Him saying, He rescued others from death: Himself He cannot rescue. He is the King of Israel? Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God: let God deliver Him now, if He cares for Him, for He said, I am the Son of God. And the robbers who were crucified with Him also abused and reproached Him in the same way. (Matthew 27:41-44)**

Hymn 158

Glory Be to Jesus

[Third set of candles are extinguished.]

1.
- Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins!
2.
- Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind!
3.
- Lift we then our voices, swell the might flood,
Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

- P:
- “Yet You are He who took me out of the womb; You made me hope and trust when I was on my mother’s breast. I was cast upon You from my very birth; from my mother’s womb You are my God.” (Psalm 22:9-10)
- C:
- Listen to me, O isles and coast lands, and hearken, you people from afar; the Lord has called me from the womb, from the body of my mother He has named my name. (Isaiah 49:1)**

P: “Be not far from me, for trouble is near and there is none to help.” (Psalm 22:11)
C: “And I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled that there was no one to uphold me. So mine own arm brought me victory, and my justice upheld me.” (Isaiah 63:5) But all this was done that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled. (Matthew 26:56)

Hymn 153

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

[Fourth set of candles are extinguished.]

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 thro’ 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.

P: “Many foes like bulls have surrounded me; strong bulls of Bashan have hedged me in. Against me they opened their mouths wide, like a ravening and roaring lion.” (Psalm 22:12-13)
C: Once more Pilate called to them, wishing to release Jesus; but they kept shouting out, crucify, crucify him! A third time he said to them, why, what wrong has he done? I have found nothing in him deserving of death; I will therefore chastise him and release him. But they were the more insistent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. (Luke 23:20-23)
P: “I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax, it is softened with anguish, and melted down within me. My strength is dried up like a fragment of clay pottery; with thirst my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and you have brought me into the dust of death.” (Psalm 22:14-15)
C: After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said in fulfillment of the scriptures, “I thirst.” (John 19:28)

Hymn 159

Go to Dark Gethsemane

[Fifth set of candles are extinguished.]

1.
- Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the Tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away, learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2.
- Calvary’s mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

P: “For like a pack of dogs they have surrounded me; a company of evil doers; they pierced my hands and my feet.” (Psalm 22:16)
C: And there followed Him a great multitude of people, and when they came to the place which is called the skull, there they crucified Him. And again another scripture says, they shall look on Him Whom they have pierced. (Luke 23:27,33: John 19:37)
P: “I can count all my bones; and the evildoers gaze at me.” (Psalm 22:17)
C: Since it was the day of preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from hanging on the cross on the Sabbath, the Jews requested Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first one and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. And he who saw it gives this evidence, and he knows that he tells the truth, that you may believe also. For these things took place that the scriptures might be fulfilled, “not one of His bones shall be broken.” (John 19:31, 32-35, 36)

Homily

“Finding God in the Darkness”
Rev. Randall J. Schlak

Luke 23:44

Musical Reflection

Watch the Lamb - Boltz
Rick Lee, Justin Wicker, and Steve SeGraves, *Vocalists*
[Sixth set of candles are extinguished.]

P: “They part my clothing among them, and cast lots for my raiment, a long, shirtlike garment, a seamless robe.” (Psalm 22:18)

C: **And the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts - one share for each soldier, and also the robe. But the robe was seamless woven from the top throughout. So they said to one another, let us not tear it, but let us cast lots to decide whose it shall be. This was to fulfill the scripture, they parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. So the soldiers did these things. (John 19:23)**

P: *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice...“It is finished”...He said, “Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit,” and having said thus He gave up His soul. (Luke 23:46, John 19:30)*

C: **Whereas this one Christ, after He had offered a single sacrifice for our sins that shall avail for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, for by a single offering He has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are sanctified. This is the covenant that I will make with them, their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Now where there is such complete forgiveness and cancellation of sin, there is no longer any offering needed to atone for sin. (Hebrew 10:12, 14, 16, 17, 19)**

Hymn

Were You There?

[Final set of candles are extinguished.]

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 laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Final Reading

Luke 23:50-54

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

Choral Reflection

Thy Will Be Done - Courtney
Chancel Choir

The Paschal Candle in our Sanctuary was given in memory of Grace Holland by the Kiehle family. On this Good Friday, as we remember Christ’s death, we remove the candle from its place near the Altar. As Christ laid in the tomb, so now we lay this candle to rest by returning it to the Kiehle family.

P: “It is FINISHED!” (Noise at the Tomb)

(At this time the Service book which rests on the Altar is slammed shut. This is to remind us of the noise a casket lid makes when being shut. The Son of God is now in the tomb.)


Ministers and worshipers leave in silence.

There is no Benediction at the close of Good Friday Services because our worship is unfinished. We return on Easter for the final chapter of Christ’s victory, and ours – the Resurrection.

Please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today. There are two simple ways to do this:

1. Scan the QR code and fill out the online attendance form.

2. Use the worship card found in your pew. You may drop it in the offering plate or simply leave it in your pew after you fill it out.



Thanks and appreciation to:

The Chancel Choir, Steve SeGraves, Rick Lee, and Justin Wicker for providing special music at today’s services.

Organist
Rick Helderop

Altar Guild
Laurie Krentz, Katie Moigis, Julie Nummer, Beth Lanthier, Sandy Pourcho, Cheryl Carr, Asia Maeder, Crissy Bienkowski, Erin Mortenson, Tracey Fish

Audio/Video Operators
Jim Endress and Bruce Helmke

Ushers
Bob Meyer, captain; Ron Curcio, Matt Pedersen, Jim Staargaard, Orion Pedersen, Brad Baldner, Ryan Teahan

Rev. Randall J. Schlak, Senior Pastor
Rev. James Greenwalt, Assistant Pastor
Steve SeGraves, Director of Music



EASTER SERVICES

Easter Vigil - April 19 - 5:00pm
We will end the Easter Vigil service in the columbarium announcing the resurrection.

Easter Sunday Services - April 20
7:30am with Holy Communion
9:00am and 10:30am - Hallelujah Chorus
Easter Egg Hunt to follow the 10:30am Easter Sunday service. Bring your Easter Basket and join us on the front lawn (weather permitting). Jericho the Bunny is returning!!

*The 10:30am Easter Sunday Service will be livestreamed. All of these services will be in the Sanctuary.



Good Friday
IT IS FINISHED

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, April 18, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1800 W. Maple
Birmingham, Michigan 48009