

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

TENEBRAE VESPERS FOR GOOD FRIDAY, April 10, 2020



Tenebrae

Good Friday is part of the sacred Triduum, the three-day observance of Christ's Passion. The altar remains bare, having been stripped on Holy Thursday. The service of Tenebrae (meaning "darkness") consists of the extinguishing of the church lights (candles). Historically it occurred early in the morning at the Offices of Matins and Lauds on all three days of the Triduum. In recent times, the service has been observed only on the evening of Good Friday.



Opening Sentences

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

Psalm 51 (antiphon: v. 2)

Two candles are extinguished at the end of the Psalm.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. John

Chapters 18–19 English Standard Version

Hymn.....Jesus, I Will Ponder Now.....(BURGUNDY Hymn 440:1)
Text is in the public domain.

**Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy Passion
With Your Spirit me in endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.**

1. The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus (18:1-11)

EVANGELIST: When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them,

Jesus: “Whom do you seek?”

EVANGELIST: They answered him,

Soldiers: “**Jesus of Nazareth.**”

EVANGELIST: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “I am he.”

EVANGELIST: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again,

Jesus: “Whom do you seek?”

EVANGELIST: And they said,

Soldiers: “**Jesus of Nazareth.**”

EVANGELIST: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.”

EVANGELIST: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

2. Jesus Before the High Priest (18:12-14)

EVANGELIST: So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

3. Peter Denies Jesus (18:15-18)

EVANGELIST: Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter,

Servant Girl: “**You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?**”

EVANGELIST: He said,

Peter: “**I am not.**”

EVANGELIST: Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

4. The High Priest Questions Jesus (18:19-24)

EVANGELIST: The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.”

EVANGELIST: When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

Officer: “Is that how you answer the high priest?”

EVANGELIST: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?”

EVANGELIST: Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Hymn..... O Sacred Head Now Wounded(RED Hymn 172:1, 2)

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Two candles are extinguished.

**O Sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O Sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now, was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

**Men mock and taunt and jeer Thee, Thou noble countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear Thee, And flee before Thy glance.
How art Thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy visage languish That once was bright as morn.**

5. Peter Denies Jesus Again (18:25-27)

EVANGELIST: Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him,

Servants: “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?”

EVANGELIST: He denied it and said,

Peter: “I am not.”

EVANGELIST: One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

High Priest’s Servant: “Did I not see you in the garden with him?”

EVANGELIST: Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

6. Jesus Before Pilate (18:28-40)

EVANGELIST: Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said,

Pilate: “What accusation do you bring against this man?”

EVANGELIST: They answered him,

Jews: “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.”

EVANGELIST: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

EVANGELIST: The Jews said to him,

Jews: “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.”

EVANGELIST: This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

EVANGELIST: So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him,

Pilate: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

EVANGELIST: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?”

EVANGELIST: Pilate answered,

Pilate: “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”

EVANGELIST: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

EVANGELIST: Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: “So you are a king?”

EVANGELIST: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

EVANGELIST: Pilate said to him,

Pilate: “What is truth?”

EVANGELIST: After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them,

Pilate: “I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

EVANGELIST: They cried out again,

Jews: “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

EVANGELIST: Now Barabbas was a robber.

7. Jesus Is Delivered to Be Crucified (19:1-16)

EVANGELIST: Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying,

Soldiers: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

EVANGELIST: and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them,

Pilate: “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.”

EVANGELIST: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Behold the man!”

EVANGELIST: When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,

Chief Priests: “Crucify him, crucify him!”

EVANGELIST: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.”

EVANGELIST: The Jews answered him,

Jews: “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”

EVANGELIST: When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus,

Pilate: “Where are you from?”

EVANGELIST: But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him,

Pilate: “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”

EVANGELIST: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

EVANGELIST: From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

Jews: “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”

EVANGELIST: So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

Pilate: “Behold your King!”

EVANGELIST: They cried out,

Jews: “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”

EVANGELIST: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “Shall I crucify your King?”

EVANGELIST: The chief priests answered,

Chief Priests: “We have no king but Caesar.”

EVANGELIST: So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Hymn..... O Sacred Head Now Wounded(RED Hymn 172:3, 4)
Two candles are extinguished.

**Now from Thy cheeks has vanished Their color, once so fair;
From Thy red lips is banished The splendor that was there.
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

**My burden is Thy passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me.
For it was my transgression Which brought this woe on Thee.
I cast me down before Thee; Wrath were my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!**

8. The Crucifixion and Jesus’ Mother (19:17-27)

EVANGELIST: So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they

crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

Chief Priests: “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”

EVANGELIST: Pilate answered,

Pilate: “What I have written I have written.”

EVANGELIST: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another,

Soldiers: “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”

EVANGELIST: This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

EVANGELIST: So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother,

Jesus: “Woman, behold, your son!”

EVANGELIST: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: “Behold, your mother!”

EVANGELIST: And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Hymn..... O Sacred Head Now Wounded (RED Hymn 172:5)

Two candles are extinguished.

**My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings didst Thou give me, O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heavenly joys above.**

9. The Death of Jesus (19:28-30)

EVANGELIST: After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),

Jesus: “I thirst.”

EVANGELIST: A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said,

Jesus: “It is finished,”

EVANGELIST: and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

[*We pause a moment to reflect on Jesus’ death for us.*]

10. Jesus’ Side is Pierced (19:31-37)

EVANGELIST: Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might

be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

Hymn..... O Sacred Head Now Wounded(RED Hymn 172:6, 7)

Two candles are extinguished.

**Here I will stand beside Thee, From Thee I will not part;
O Savior, do not chide me! When breaks Thy loving heart,
When soul and body languish In death's cold, cruel grasp,
Then, in Thy deepest anguish, Thee in mine arms I'll clasp.**

**The joy can ne'er be spoken, Above all joys beside,
When in Thy body broken I thus with safety hide.
O Lord of Life, desiring Thy glory now to see,
Beside Thy cross expiring, I'd breathe my soul to Thee.**

11. Jesus Is Buried (19:38-42)

EVANGELIST: After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

O Lord, have mercy on us. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Sermon

Canticle Hymn..... O Dearest Jesus, What Law Burgundy Hymn 439

Stanzas 1-5, 8, 15

Two candles are extinguished at the end of the Canticle Hymn.

Prayers

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Salutation and Collects

The Lord be with you. **And with thy Spirit.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord

*Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.....**Amen.***

*Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly life we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and to continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**Amen.***

*Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.....**Amen.***

The final two candles are extinguished.

The *strepitus* (loud noise) signifies the closing of the tomb.

Participants depart in silence.

Canticle Hymn for Good Friday

LSB439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

Text is in the public domain.

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.
8. O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?
What dare I offer?
15. And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
I, too, shall praise Thee.



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Christ, the Source of Eternal Salvation

10. *[For it was fitting that He, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make] the Author of their salvation [perfect through suffering].*

Ambrose prefers “the Leader of salvation” to “the Author of salvation.” ... Chrysostom, however, understands “the Leader of salvation” to be identical in meaning with “the Cause of salvation,” as in Heb. 5:9: “He became the Source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” Here it is beautifully shown how we are saved, namely, through Christ as the Idea and Exemplar, to whose image all who are saved are conformed. For God the Father made Christ to be the Sign and Idea, in order that those who adhere to Him by faith might be transformed into the same image (2 Cor. 3:18) and thus be drawn away from the images of the world. ... [T]hrough the Gospel as through a spectacle exhibited to the whole world (cf. 2 Cor. 4:9) Christ attracts all men by the knowledge and contemplation of Himself and draws them away from the things to which they have clung in the world. This is the meaning of the statement that they are transformed and become like Him. In this way he says that Christ is the Cause and Leader of salvation, for He draws and leads His sons to glory through Him. One would commonly say that Christ is the Instrument and the Means by which God leads His sons. Therefore since He has determined to draw His sons through Christ, the text says correctly that “it was fitting that He should make Christ perfect through suffering,” that is, that He should make Him the most perfect and the complete Example through which to inspire and draw His sons. For God does not compel men to salvation by force and fear, but by this pleasing spectacle of His mercy and love He moves and draws through love all whom He will save.

Luther's Works, 29:131-2.