



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COME TO RECEIVE – GO TO SHARE
March 29, 2024

Good Friday Tenebrae

An Explanation of the Tenebrae Service

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice, the ancient Church held a special service the last days in Holy Week called Tenebrae. Tenebrae is a Latin word which means darkness or shadows. The Office of Tenebrae dates back to the 7th - 8th century A.D.

The service begins with the worshippers entering in silence and ends in almost total darkness, the lights/candles in the church being gradually extinguished. The candles, extinguished one by one, remind the worshippers of the darkness which covered the earth when Jesus hung on the cross, the darkness which covered the people who rejected the Son of God, and the gradual death of our Lord.

The strepitus (the harsh noise) at the conclusion of the service is to acknowledge that the meaning of the cross is fulfilled. There is no organ offertory or postlude, and the organ only accompanies the hymns. At the conclusion of the service, the remaining light testifies that Jesus did not remain on the grave, but rose on Easter morning and lives to all eternity, thus assuring us of His victory over the power of sin and death and of our reconciliation with God the Father. There is no benediction. Having said a silent prayer, the congregation leaves quietly, pondering what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

The congregation and pastor enter in silence.

Collect

- P Almighty God,
C **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**

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

⁶Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

⁷Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. ⁸It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: 454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

LSB 454

A candle is extinguished

Second Lesson

Psalm 22

- P ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- C ²**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.**
- P ³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- C ⁴**In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- P ⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
C **in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**
- P ⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- C ⁷**All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;**
- P ⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
C **let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"**
- P ⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
C **you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.**
- P ¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
- C ¹¹**Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.**
- P ¹²Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- C ¹³**they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.**
- P ¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
- C **my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;**
- P ¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
C **you lay me in the dust of death.**
- P ¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
- C **they have pierced my hands and feet—
¹⁷I can count all my bones—**

P they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸they divide my garments among them,

C **and for my clothing they cast lots.**

P ¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!

C **O you my help, come quickly to my aid!**

P ²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

C ²¹**Save me from the mouth of the lion!**

P You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

C ²²**I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

P ²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!

C **All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

P ²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,

C **and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.**

P ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

C **my vows I will perform before those who fear him.**

P ²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;

C **those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!**

P ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,

C **and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.**

P ²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

C ²⁹**All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;**

P before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

C ³⁰**Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**

P ³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,

C **that he has done it.**

Third Lesson

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

- ¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.
- ¹⁴As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
- ¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.
- ¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- ²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
- ³He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.
- ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
- ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
- ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

LSB 423

A candle is extinguished.

Fourth Lesson

John 3:17–21

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Litany on the Mystery of the Cross

- P The Cross is a wonder for us.
C **There is mystery in the Cross.**
P The Cross is a paradox which we do not understand.
C **There is mystery in the Cross.**
P The Cross is an absurdity:
C **Yet it bears an inner truth.**
P We see in the Cross an instrument of death.
C **Yet we acknowledge in it the way of salvation.**
P We see in the Cross the abandonment of Jesus by the Father:
C **Yet we acknowledge the crucified Jesus as the way to the Father.**
P We see life poured out on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge life gathered in the one person of Jesus.**
P We see death on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge life through the Cross.**
P We see the scattering of disciples in the face of the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge the subsequent gathering of disciples around the transformed Jesus.**
P We see the wood of the Cross as an instrument of defeat:
C **Yet we acknowledge the Cross as the symbol and banner of victory.**
P We see a sinless and innocent person put to death on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge the ransom of a sinful people.**
P We see the bleakness of the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge the Cross as a royal throne.**
P We see the suffering of the Nazarene on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge the redemptive self-giving of the Son of God.**
P We see the painful lifting up of Jesus on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge the glorious exaltation of Christ above the earth.**
P We see the life of Jesus draining out of him on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge his life filling a reconciled world.**
P We see the weakness of a dying man on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge the power of a living Lord on the Cross.**
P We see Jesus handed over to executioners:
C **Yet we acknowledge his power to control the events of life and death.**

P We see a servant on the Cross:
C **Yet we acknowledge a Lord.**
P There is mystery in the Cross:
C **And absurd joy.**
P There is mystery in the Cross:
P And life and peace and hope.
P We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
C **Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**
Amen

A candle is extinguished

Fifth Lesson

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: “Ah, Holy Jesus”

Arr. by Barbara Wallace

Grace Choir-7 pm only

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A candle is extinguished.

Sixth Lesson

John 19:25b–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn: 456 Were You There

LSB 456 sts. 1–3

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 nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Oh . . .

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,

tremble,

tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

3 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?

Text: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.

Text: Public domain

Seventh Lesson

Hosea 6:1–3

¹"Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
²After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
³Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The final candle is extinguished. The Christ Candle is carried from the room. During this time of darkness, the congregation meditates silently on Jesus' suffering and death. The book is shut, reminding us of the completion of the work on the cross, and a symbol of the resurrection. The Christ Candle returns. All whisper the Lord's Prayer.

Lord's Prayer (whispered)

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.

Acknowledgments

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**Join us on Sunday as we return to celebrate
The Resurrection of our Lord!**

March 31, 6:53 AM

Easter Sunrise Service (outside, weather permitting)
with Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast served between the worship services
8:00am – 9:30am

March 31, 10:00AM

Easter Festival Service
with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, please bring a cut flower from your garden or shop
to participate in the ***"Flowering of the Cross" ceremony***.

*Our Lenten Cross will be transformed from a symbol of death to a symbol of life as we place our
flowers on the cross at the beginning of the service. The flowered cross will be displayed at the
roadside in front of the church after the 10:00 am service as a testimony to our community of our
Easter joy.*