

GOOD FRIDAY: TENEBRAE

April 2, 2021

AS WE GATHER

This is a service of commemorating what is the most solemn night of the Church Year. Tenebrae means "darkness" or "shadows."

INVOCATION

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

Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to behold the agony of your rejection, the pain of your condemnation, and the horror of your crucifixion.

Empower us to walk where you walked and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.

Stay with us, Lord, as we witness your suffering and listen to your last words of love.

As we approach Calvary, let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against your holy commandments.

Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from you in our thinking, speaking and doing.

We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.

We have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

O God, we have tried to hide from you and from one another.

We confess our fatal attractions that enslave us and the failed relationships that haunt us.

We cannot plead the strength of our temptations or the frailty of our nature or place the blame on other people.

We can only say—

Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

A moment of silent reflection

By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. O God, make your face shine upon us.

Only then will we be saved!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN "As I Look on Calvary" [Tune: GETHSEMANE]

**As I look on Calvary
One great myst'ry puzzles me.
I must ask, "How can it be
That my God should die for me?
What can bind this King so great
To the cross of sin and hate?"**

**All the nails of sinners lost
Could not hold Him to the cross.
If He did not choose to stay,
He could take Himself away.
His own nail of love and care---
That's the one that held Him there.**

**Savior, let me meditate
On Your love for me, so great.
Take from me the nails of sin.
Make me holy now, within.
Let Your nail of love so true
Point me to a life with You.**

SERMON "Golgotha"

PRAYERS

THE TENEBRAE

HYMN "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

**Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
With your Spirit me 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.**

The Word of Forgiveness

Luke 23:33-38

When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed (Jesus) to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified— one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews."

(The first candle is extinguished)

HYMN “O Perfect Life Of Love!”

**O perfect life of love! All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above To do for us below.**

**No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one,
The Scriptures have fulfilled.**

**And on His thorn-crowned head And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid
That he might make us whole.**

The Word of Promise

Luke 23:39–43

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself— and us, too, while you’re at it!” But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

(The second candle is extinguished)

HYMN “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

**Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!**

The Word of Love

John 19:25–27

Standing near the cross were Jesus’s mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son.” And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

(The third candle is extinguished)

HYMN “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

**Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

The Word of Forsakenness

Mark 15:25–35

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!" The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him. At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah.

(The fourth candle is extinguished)

HYMN "Were You There"

**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?**

**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?**

The Word of Suffering

John 19:28–29

Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.

(The fifth candle is extinguished)

HYMN “Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted”

**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.**

**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through 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.**

**Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

The Word of Victory

John 19:30

When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

HYMN “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

**Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,**

**Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.**

**Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace hath taught us
Calms the sinner's deep distress.**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

The Word of Trust

Luke 23:44–47

By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last. When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent."

(The seventh candle is extinguished)

HYMN "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

**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.
What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.
Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing die safely in thy love.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken softly)*

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 removal of the Christ Candle symbolizes that our Savior hung in darkness for three God-forsaken hours before he died for the sins of the world.

SILENT RECESSIONAL

The congregation leaves the sanctuary and the building silently contemplating the death of Christ and looking forward to resurrection victory.

SILENT PRAYER

The Lamb, the Lamb, he takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, he gives me his own righteousness. Thanks be to God! Amen.

