



Good Friday

Tenebrae | A Service of Darkness



Divine Service commemorating the
Crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

APRIL 3, 2026
7:00PM

Good Friday brings us to the very center of the Christian faith and life: the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation from sin, death, the devil, and hell.

We do not gather in despair, as though all hope were lost. Rather, our worship is marked by a spirit of solemn and restrained praise.

Jesus was not a helpless victim. He willingly gave Himself into suffering, into the hands of sinful men, and into death – all for us.

Through the words and actions of this service, we remember the completion of His saving work. And as the service unfolds, we move into the shadows of Tenebrae – darkness – as our Lord’s body is laid in the tomb.

As we begin, the bell will toll thirty-three times, marking the years of our Lord’s earthly life.

Opening Collect

P 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.

C Amen.

Isaiah 53 -

The Atonement (Responsive Reading)

Who has believed what he has 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^[b] by men,
a man of sorrows^[c] 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.**

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ **All 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.**

⁷ He 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.

⁸ **By 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?**

⁹ And 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.

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

¹¹ Out 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.

¹² **Therefore 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.**

The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross

P Having heard the prophet speak of the suffering Servant, we now hear His words fulfilled at the cross.

Reading 1 - The Crucifixion Begins

The First Word: "Forgiveness"

Isaiah 53:12

¹² Therefore 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.*

Luke 23: 32-34

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."** And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Reflective Prayer (First candle extinguished)

Reflective Hymn: 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded *sts. 1-2*



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
How doth Thy face now lan - guish That once was bright as morn!



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004024
Tune: Public domain

Reading 2 - The Criminals

The Second Word: "Salvation"

Isaiah 53:11 -

¹¹ Out 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.

Luke 23: 35-43

³⁵ *And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"* ³⁶ *The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine* ³⁷ *and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"* ³⁸ *There was also an inscription over him,^{lq} "This is the King of the Jews."*

³⁹ *One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him,^{lq}saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"* ⁴⁰ *But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"* ⁴¹ *And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."* ⁴² *And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* ⁴³ *And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

Reflective Prayer (Second candle extinguished)

Reading 3 – At the Cross

The Third Word: “Relationship”

Isaiah 53:4

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

John 19:25-27

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

Prayer (Third candle extinguished)

Choir Hymn - How Vast the Love, by Dana Mengel

Reading 4 – Darkness Falls

The Fourth Word: “Abandonment”

Isaiah 53:3

³ He was despised and rejected^[b] by men,
a man of sorrows^[c] and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Matthew 27: 45-46

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour¹¹ there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Reflective Prayer - Fourth candle extinguished

Reflective Hymn - "Were You There" (LSB 456) Vs 1-3



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Reading 5 - The Final Moments Begin

The Fifth word - "Distress"

Isaiah 53:7

*7 He 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.*

John 19:28 - *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."*

Reflective Prayer (Fifth candle extinguished)

Reflective Hymn 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross sts. 2-3



2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and



death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and



charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
Text and tune: Public domain

Reading 6 - The End Draws Near

The Sixth Word: "Triumph"

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
*upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

Reflective Prayer (Sixth candle extinguished)

Reflective Music - Lamb of God, by Twila Paris

Reading 7 - The Death of Jesus

Seventh Word " Reunion"

Isaiah 53:10

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

Luke 23: 44-46

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Reflective Prayer (Seventh candle extinguished)

Reflective Hymn - LSB 440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now *sts. 1-3*



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615
Text and tune: Public domain

Final Reading

Luke 23:47-49

"⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things."

Streptitus (*A loud sound is made.*) (*Silence is kept.*)

The Lord's Prayer

Depart in Silence

Serving this evening

Organist: Pam Reynolds

Choir Director: Heather Baird

Violinist: Arin Cross

Readers: Tom Aery, Brian Dollard, Mark Stuart

