

Tenebrae

April 2, 2021 – 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

We extend a most cordial welcome to all of you who have included this Good Friday Worship service in your Holy Week plans. We welcome especially those of you who are guests and visitors. You are always most welcome to worship your Savior with us at Chapel of the Cross. We would be favored if you would please sign our Fellowship Register located at the end of each pew. May God bless your Holy Week!

Our worship service this Good Friday is the *Tenebrae Service* traditionally conducted on Good Friday to impress upon believers in Jesus the awful consequences of sin, and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice. The term "Tenebrae" means darkness, and immediately we are reminded of the darkness which covered the earth at the time of Christ's crucifixion and death.

The Readings and the Responsive Psalm Paraphrases this day (which take the place of the sermon) will be read from the back of the church. Our hope is that you would have an unobstructed view of the cross.

The mood of the service is not only meditative, but it is also somewhat somber. The chancel is stripped of decoration and flowers. All appointments have been removed so that all that remains is the cross. The congregation even remains seated throughout the service (until the Dismissal and Benediction) to help remind us that our worship today is truly different and special.

The gradual extinguishing of the candles in the chancel is to remind the congregation of the gathering darkness that hung about Jesus as He moved through the entire Passion History. The central candle is called the Christ Candle, and its removal from the altar symbolizes Christ's death and burial (It is not extinguished). But then the candle is returned to the altar. Darkness, death and burial could not prevail - - nor could they defeat the Light of Christ! He lives to be the Light of the world! The symbolic candle burns on - - and we enjoy its warmth and light in our hearts and lives.

The Order of Worship

(The congregation will remain seated throughout the service)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.

People: Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us.

Pastor: Immanuel, God with us, You have walked the valley of tears with Your people.

People: Lord, have mercy on us and walk with us.

Pastor: Eternal Word, You have conveyed the Father's message of love and reconciliation.

People: Lord, have mercy on us and pardon us.

Pastor: Light of the World, You have revealed to us the glory of the eternal God.

People: Lord, have mercy on us and shine in our hearts.

Pastor: Almighty God, we ask You to look with mercy on Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

HYMN *(Tune: Go to Dark Gethsemane) (sung by all)*
**In the steps our Savior trod Let us follow faithfully,
Where the sinless Son of God Went to set us sinners free.
Mark each footstep in the strife Of the Way, the Truth, the Life.**

I. Jesus is Condemned

Isaiah 53:8

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

Luke 23:13-25

¹³Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

¹⁸With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"
¹⁹(Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

²²For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

²³But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

PSALM

Psalm 17

Pastor: Hear me out, God! Listen to my case: I speak the truth. You be my judgment!

People: **Search my heart; search it in the darkness of night. Test me with fire. See my innocence.**

Pastor: I speak no evil. I have kept Your word, walking steadfastly in Your path.

People: **My feet have not stumbled.**

Pastor: I call out to You, God, for You will hear me.

People: **Listen! Hear what I have to say. Show Your great love, O saving God.**

Pastor: Let me flee to You.

People: **Let me be Your beloved, sheltering beneath Your wings, safe from wicked brutes.**

Pastor: My enemies hem me in, craving my flesh. There is no pity in them, only boastful words.

People: **They draw near like ravenous lions, crouched, ready to spring, eyes fixed upon me, eager for the kill.**

Pastor: But my reward is to behold Your face;

People: **It is enough for me to awake in Your presence.**

ORGAN MEDITATION

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

II . Jesus Carries His Cross

Isaiah 53:7

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

John 19:16-17

¹⁶Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

PSALM

Psalm 55

Pastor: Hear me, God! Do not turn away!

People: Listen! Answer me! Grief cuts me to the core.

Pastor: See me shudder at the enemy's shouts, at the jeers of the wicked.

People: Hear their twisted lies and spiteful curses.

Pastor: My heart quivers, stricken by death's terrors;

People: Fear has me in its grip, and I tremble.

Pastor: I pray for wings like a dove to fly far, far away.

People: I would flee to the wilderness and build a nest there.

Pastor: There I would rest from this tempest, God.

People: There, far from raging tongues.

Pastor: It was my friends who turned on me, not some foe I could shrug off,
but close friends.

People: We used to pray together.

(continued on next page)

Pastor: See their wickedness, God. See how they befriend evil.
People: I cry out to You, morning, noon and night. I complain bitterly.

Pastor: But You have listened, God. You have heard my case.
People: You break their power over me, saving God. You give me peace.

Pastor: Take my burdens, God; save me from stumbling.
People: I will trust in You always.

HYMN

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (sung by choir)

- 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?*
- 7 *O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying
While Thou wert dying.*
- 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.*

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III. Jesus Falls Beneath His Cross

Isaiah 53:2b-4, 11b

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. By his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

PSALM

Psalm 38

Pastor: God, in Your great anger do not chastise or punish me.

People: Your arrows have struck deep; Your hand weighs heavily upon me.

Pastor: Because of Your rage, my flesh wastes away;

People: because of my sin, my bones grow brittle.

Pastor: I am bent by guilt, burdened by the load; my wounds fester.

People: Broken by folly, I walk in sorrow, grieving all day long.

Pastor: My flesh burns, consumed by fever.

People: Bruised and stamped upon, I cry out, groaning from the heart.

Pastor: Lord, You see all secrets, You hear my sighs.

People: My heart breaks, all my strength has fled, even my eyes grow dim.

Pastor: Friends shrink from my wounds; relatives keep their distance.

People: Enemies set snares, hatch plots, threaten death.

Pastor: But I am deaf to their words, silent at their taunts.

People: I am like one who, hearing nothing, gives no answer.

(continued on next page)

Pastor: For it is You I trust, my God, You who can answer them.

People: **Stop their gloating and boasting when I stumble.**

Pastor: God do not leave me alone. Do not abandon me.

People: **Come, quickly save me, O God, my God.**

ANTHEM

"Is This the Savior?"

Dana Mengel

Is this the Savior nailed to the tree, dying in utmost agony?

Is this the Savior who came to save us and to set us free?

Is this the Savior, broken and bruised, ruthlessly beaten, gravely abused?

Is this the Savior who came to love us, all people; Gentiles and Jews?

This is the Savior who came to save us. This is the great "I AM."

This is the One who came to redeem us. This is the Paschal Lamb.

Lord God, be merciful. Kyrie.

Is this the Savior who raised the dead, who many hungry people fed?

Is this the King, the heir of God's kingdom, now pierced with thorns on His head?

This is the savior who came to heal us. This is the "Prince of Peace."

This is the son of God, the Almighty. This is the "King of kings."

Lord God, be merciful. Kyrie.

IV. Simon Helps Carry the Cross

Isaiah 53:11b

By his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

Luke 23:26

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

PSALM

Psalm 25

Pastor: I worship You, my God, I trust You; save me from disgrace, from the jeers of my foes.

People: It is those who break faith who are the fools, not the ones who wait for You.

Pastor: Show me Your path, God. Teach me, guide me, lead me in truth,

People: for You are my God. I have waited for You all day.

Pastor: Remember Your tenderness, Your endless love,

People: and forget the sins of my youth, my frailties. Because of Your goodness, remember me, God.

Pastor: You show sinners the straight road, leading the poor to justice.

People: Those who keep Your law walk in kindness and truth. For the sake of Your name, forgive me.

Pastor: I love You, O God. Show me the way I should choose, the path of blessing.

People: You are friend to those who love You, to those who cherish Your law.

Pastor: I fix my eyes upon You,

People: for You will free me from the trap.

(continued on next page)

Pastor: Look at me, God; pity me. I am sad and alone.

People: **Lighten my heart, my heavy burden. Heal my festering wounds.**

Pastor: Let me shelter in You. Give me integrity for a shield because I wait for You.

People: **Rescue me, God, from all my troubles.**

HYMN

The Old Rugged Cross (sung by choir)

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain*

Chorus *So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

*To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share (Chorus)*

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V. Jesus Meets the Women

Isaiah 52:14-15

¹⁴Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness—
¹⁵so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Luke 23:27-31

²⁷A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then “they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”” ³¹For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

PSALM

Psalm 4

Pastor: God, my justice, answer me.

People: Comfort me in my distress; in Your kindness hear me.

Pastor: The narrow-hearted close me out;

People: steeped in lies, they chase false gods.

Pastor: I say to them, “Know that God protects me; God hears when I cry out.”

People: I say to them, “Tremble. Sin no more. Spend the night in prayer. Trust God. Make justice your sacrifice.”

Pastor: They say, “Who will bring happiness? Let the light of God’s face shine on us!”

People: God, You bring me richer joy than all their grain and wine. I fall asleep peacefully, secure in Your love.

HYMN

440 Jesus I will Ponder Now (sung by all)

1 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.

4 Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?

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VI. Jesus is Stripped

Psalm 22:15-18

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

John 19:23-24

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

PSALM

Psalm 31

Pastor: I shelter in You, God; take away my shame.

People: Save me! Set me free! Listen! Come quickly!

Pastor: Be my rock of safety, my stronghold, my fortress.

People: God, my rock, I call on Your name! Lead me! Guide me!

Pastor: Untangle me from the net; draw me close to You.

People: I place myself in Your hands, God, my safety. I trust You; I delight in Your love, in Your faithfulness, O God.

Pastor: You saw my pain, my wounded spirit;

People: You saved me from the cage and set me free.

Pastor: Pity me, God. Grief grips me; misery strangles me.

People: There is so much pain – the years are filled with sighs. I grow weak! How brittle are my bones!

Pastor: Enemies hound me down. Neighbors scoff and scorn.

People: My friends desert me, avoiding my gaze as though I am a corpse.

Pastor: But I trust You, God; I am Yours alone.

People: Let Your love shine upon me, now and always.

Pastor: Let those who love You know Your embrace. Let them see Your justice.

People: Teach them to take heart, to trust in You, O God.

ORGAN MEDITATION

“Were You There”

arr. by Mary B. Bennett

VII. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Isaiah 53:5

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

Mark 15:22-25

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was the third hour when they crucified him.

HYMN

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (sung by choir)

1 *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.*

7 *Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.*

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VIII. Jesus Dies on the Cross

Isaiah 53:6

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

John 19:30b-37

Jesus said, "It is finished." With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

PSALM

Psalm 16

Pastor: Keep me, God. You are my safety, my only happiness. I delight in fidelity.

People: **Those who chase other gods bring troubles upon themselves. When they pour out blood offerings and praise the names of idols, I will not join them.**

Pastor: You, God, are all I have; everything depends on You.

People: **You guide me; You teach my heart, O God.**

Pastor: I will bless You.

People: **I will think of You always, mindful of Your presence, O God my strength.**

Pastor: You will not abandon me or leave me among the dead.

People: **No, You will lead me to life, to endless joy, at Your right hand, forever.**

HYMN

451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (sung by choir)

- 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 through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.*
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IX. Jesus is Taken from the Cross

Isaiah 53:10a, 11a

¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer. ¹¹After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied.

Mark 15:42-46a

⁴²It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock.

PSALM

Psalm 46

Pastor: God of shelter, God of strength, saving God: Even if the earth shudders, even if mountains tumble into sea depths, making the waters churn and seethe, we shall not be afraid.

People: **You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!**

Pastor: Joy streams through Your city, through Your sacred dwelling.

People: **You are with us, God; the city cannot fall.**

Pastor: At dawn You scatter the enemy; kingdoms topple, earth crumbles at the sound of Your voice.

People: **You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!**

Pastor: Come, let us see God's wonders, God's saving deeds!

People: **He breaks the bow, snaps the spear, burns the shield, stamps out war.**

Pastor: "Be still!" says God. "Know that I hold power over all peoples."

People: **You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!**

HYMN

452 O Perfect Life of Love (sung by all)

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

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

4 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.

5 In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

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X. Jesus is Buried

Isaiah 53:9

⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

John 19:41-42

⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, we ask You to look with mercy on Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

People: O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

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.

The church is silent for a moment and the Christ Candle is removed, symbolizing the death and burial of our Lord and Savior. You are invited to offer God a silent prayer.

Isaiah 53:12

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Please stand

THE DISMISSAL

People: Lord, now let Your servants depart in peace according to Your Word; For our eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared before the face of all people; A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION *(spoken by everyone to everyone)*

People: Peace be with you! In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! Amen!

ONE CANDLE still burns in the chancel. That candle symbolizes our Easter conviction: "Jesus lives!" In anticipation, then, of the Easter celebration, we will hum two stanzas of the hymn "I Know that My Redeemer Lives." The words are printed here for your meditation and anticipation.

**I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head!**

**He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.**

You may wish to leave the church quietly, reflecting on the awesome work of our Savior, Jesus Christ for you.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 6:30, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
(Holy Communion at all services)

Serving at Chapel

Worship Leader:	Theodore Laesch
Acolytes:	12:00 p.m. Ezekiel Laesch 6:30 p.m. Jacob Laesch
Singers:	Lynn Freund, Lynda Christian, Denise Koch Ellory Glenn, Mark Petersen
Instrumentalists:	Lynda Christian, oboe Craig Schlichtmann, clarinet
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer

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