

Good
Friday
Service

Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 18, 2025

This service is a form of the ancient office of *Tenebrae*—Latin for “darkness”—and is intended to bring to mind and heart, by word and symbol, the unforgettable closing hours of our Savior’s Passion.

Seven lighted candles represent the ebbing life of the crucified Savior. As each meditation is heard and a corresponding hymn is sung, one of the candles is extinguished. The later lighting of a single candle symbolizes the resurrection of Christ and the rebirth of Christian faith and hope.

The service begins in absolute silence—no bells, no prelude. Worshipers are asked to leave the church in silence at the close of the commemoration. Dismissal will be from back to front. There will be no postlude.

“A King Indeed!”

Opening Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns CW 511

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;

hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,

and hail him as thy matchless King thro’ all eternity.

**2 Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.**

No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,

but downward bends his wond’ring eye at mysteries so bright.

**3 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.**

His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,

who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

**4 Crown him the Lord of heav’n, enthroned in worlds above;
crown him the King to whom is giv’n the wondrous name of Love.**

Crown him with many crowns as thrones before him fall;

crown him, ye kings, with many crowns for he is King of all.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins (from Isaiah 53)

P: He was despised and rejected by men,

C: a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

P: Like one from whom men hide their faces

C: he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

P: Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

C: yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

P: But he was pierced for our transgressions,

C: he was crushed for our iniquities;

P: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

C: and by his wounds we are healed.

P: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

C: and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

P: He was cut off from the land of the living;

C: for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

P: He bore the sin of many,

C: and made intercession for the transgressors.

Prayer

P: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was willing to be betrayed into the hands of wicked men, and suffer death on the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, and make us always ready to serve him, for he truly is the King of kings and Lord of lords, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

1. His Robe

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him. (Mark 15:16,17)

Prayer

Hymn: His Robes for Mine CW 568

1 His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.
Draped in his righteousness, I'm justified.
In Christ I live, for in my place he died. (Refrain)

Ref I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost:
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.
My praise—my all—shall be for Christ alone.

2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
God's daunting law Christ mastered in my stead.
Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine,
saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life. (Refrain)

3 His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "'Tis done!"
Sin's wage is paid, propitiation won. (Refrain)

4 His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though his foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;
I, as though he, embraced and welcomed home! (Refrain)

2. His Crown

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" (Mark 15:17)

Prayer

Hymn: O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken CW 432:1-4

1 O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
that such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession,
what dark transgression?

2 They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
with cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
they give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
they crucify you.

3 Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
yes, all the wrath, the woe that you 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.

3. His Homage

And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. (Mark 15:18,19)

Prayer

Hymn: O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken CW 432:5-7

5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness,
the sinful child of man may live in gladness;
we forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted;
God is committed.

6 I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,
that earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
to do your will shall be my sole endeavor
henceforth forever.

7 And when, dear Lord, before your throne in heaven
to me the crown of joy at last is given,
where sweetest hymns your saints forever raise you,
I too shall praise you.

4. His Throne

Then they led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15:20)

Prayer

Hymn: There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood *tune of CW '93, 112*

**1 There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Immanuel's veins,
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains: lose all their guilty stains.**

**2 The dying thief rejoiced to see
that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he,
washed all my sins away: washed all my sins away.**

**3 Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood
shall never lose its pow'r
till all the ransomed Church of God
be saved, to sin no more: be saved, to sin no more.**

5. His Subjects

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. (Luke 23:32,33)

Prayer

Hymn: The Power of the Cross *CW 423 sts. 1, Ref, 2-4, Final Refrain*

**1 Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary. Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood. (Refrain)**

**Ref This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.**

**2 Oh, to see the pain written on your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin. Ev'ry bitter thought,
ev'ry evil deed crowning your bloodstained brow. (Refrain)**

3 Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
quakes as its maker bows his head. Curtain torn in two,
dead are raised to life; "Finished!" the vict'ry cry. (Refrain)

4 Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through your suff'ring I am free. Death is crushed to death;
life is mine to live, won through your selfless love!
(Final Refrain)

Final Refrain

This the pow'r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.
What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

6. His Victory

A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." (John 19:30a)

Prayer

Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love For Us CW 523

1 How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.

2 Behold the man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

3 I will not boast in anything: No gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

7. His Death

With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30b)

Prayer

Hymn (by students of St. Matthew's School) "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

The Offering

(The congregation stands for the Litany.)

The Litany

P: God did not spare his own Son:

C: But delivered him up for us all.

P: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

C: Have mercy on us!

P: Christ became obedient unto death:

C: Even the death of the cross.

P: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

C: Have mercy on us!

P: Since we have been justified through faith,

C: we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

C: Grant us your peace!

(The congregation is seated and remains seated to the end of the service.)

The Burial of our Lord (as it is recorded in the Gospels)

Later, as evening approached, there came a man named Joseph, a rich man from the Judean town of Arimathea, also a prominent member of the Council, who had not consented to their decision and action. He was a good, upright man who was waiting for the kingdom of God, and he was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he feared the Jews.

Going to Pilate, he asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he had learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

Joseph took the body down and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, which he had bought. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb cut out of rock in which no one had ever been laid. They laid Jesus there because it was nearby and also because it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Joseph rolled a big stone in front of the entrance of the tomb and went away. The women went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that impostor said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first!"

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting a guard.

Hymn: Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See *CW 884*

**Lord, when your glory I shall see and taste your kingdom's
pleasure, your blood my royal robe shall be,
my joy beyond all measure!**

**When I appear before your throne, your righteousness shall be my
crown; with these I need not hide me.**

**And there, in garments richly wrought, as your own bride I shall
be brought, to stand in joy beside you.**

(The Pastor lights the Resurrection Candle, then speaks a prayer.
This is followed by a minute of silent meditation.)

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

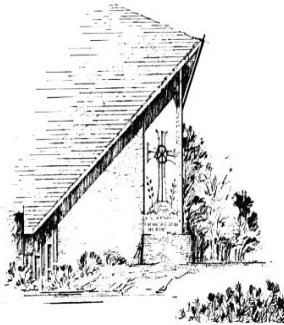
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Please remember our service schedule for Easter Sunday:
Easter Festival Services—8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Easter Breakfast—9:00-10:00 a.m.



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