



Good Friday

First Lutheran Church

April 3, 2026

Tenebrae, which is a Latin word meaning "Shadows," has been observed in the Christian Church since the fourth century. On this Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus and recall his seven last words on the cross. As we remember the last words, we will extinguish the candles, one by one. Following the concluding hymn, the large candle will be removed briefly from the Nave to signify Christ's death. After the tolling of the church bells, the candle will return to Nave, as a foretaste of the resurrection that we will celebrate on Easter Sunday.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Élégie, Opus 38

Flor Peeters

The assembly stands.

INVOCATION

PM: Knowing the fate that awaited him,

C: Jesus rode into the Jerusalem on Sunday, and we shouted "Hosanna!"

PM: Knowing that we would betray him,

C: Jesus broke bread with his disciples on Thursday.

PM: Knowing why the soldiers look for him tonight,

C: Jesus will answer, "I am He," and we will not defend Him.

PM: Let us worship in the shadow of the cross

C: and with Christ lament the pain of the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin. The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.

AM: A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-third chapter.

- ¹ Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- ² For 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,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- ³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
- ⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
- ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
- ⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

OFFERING AND SOLO

O Divine Redeemer
Nick Saxton, tenor

Charles Gounod

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

FIRST WORD

LUKE 23:32-38

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah 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, “This is the King of the Jews.”

CHANT

SING, MY TONGUE
Nick Saxton, tenor; Elijah Shiley, bass

ELW # 355

PRAYER

PM: Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, too, may be included in that prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior.

C: Amen.

The first candle is extinguished.

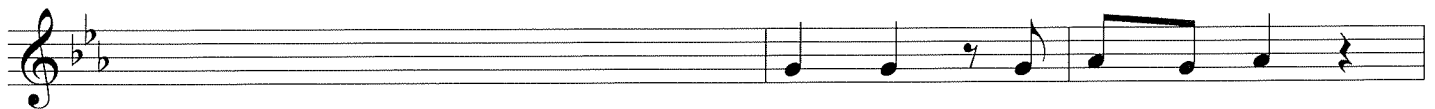
SECOND WORD

LUKE 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? 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 have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**"

HYMN

JESUS, REMEMBER ME



1 "Hum" the melody:
2 Continue to "Hum"
3 Cantor sings, continue "Humming"
4 Cantors sing, continue "Humming"
5 Assembly joins softly: Je - sus, re - mem-ber me
6 Continue singing softly:



when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je-sus re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your king-dom.

PRAYER

PM: O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come.

C: Amen.

The second candle is extinguished.

THIRD WORD

JOHN 19:23-27

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, 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 into his own home.

HYMN

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

BELLS OF PRAISE

Introduction

Jason W. Krug

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
 on which the prince of glo - ry died,
 save in the death of Christ, my God;
 sor - row and love flow min - gled down.
 my rich - est gain I count but loss
 all the vain things that charm me most,
 Did e'er such love and sor - row meet,
 and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 or thorns com - pose so rich a crown.

PRAYER

PM: O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this, our prayer for your mercy's sake.

C: **Amen.**

The third candle is extinguished.

FOURTH WORD

MATTHEW 27:45-46

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "**Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?**" that is, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"

BELLS OF PRAISE

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

Jason W. Krug

PRAYER

PM: Almighty God, who forsook your Son upon the cross showing the world your judgment upon human sin and guilt, grant us upon hearing his cry, the grace to know and believe that we will never be forsaken, that he is present with us even to the end of the age: for the sake of Jesus Christ who bore the sin of our world on the cross.

C: **Amen.**

The fourth candle is extinguished.

FIFTH WORD

JOHN 19:28-29

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "**I thirst.**" ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

SOLO

I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked Geoffrey O'Hara
Elijah Shiley, bass

PRAYER

PM: O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others.

C: Amen.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

SIXTH WORD

JOHN 19:30

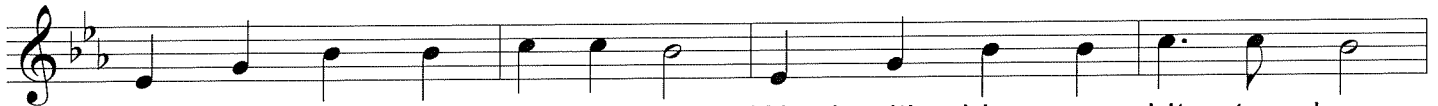
³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "**It is finished.**" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HYMN

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn - ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at his feet,



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see, Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to hear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

PRAYER

PM: O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto

death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

SEVENTH WORD

LUKE 23:44-46

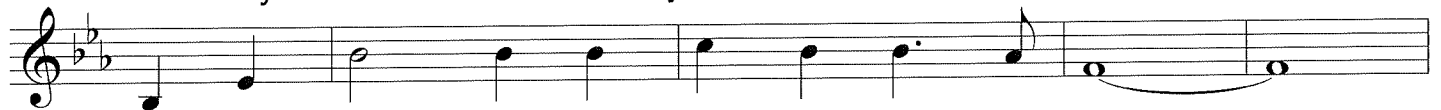
⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, **“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”** Having said this, he breathed his last.

HYMN

WERE YOU THERE



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
2 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 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?



Oh, some-times is 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?

PRAYER

PM: Heavenly Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all.

C: Amen.

The seventh candle is extinguished.

The assembly stands.

APOSTLE'S CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

CANDLE PROCESSION

STREPITUS

CANDLE PROCESSION

PM: The Light Shines in the Darkness,
and the Darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:1)

DEPART IN SILENCE