

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Good Friday – Tenebrae Service

April 7, 2023

THE TENEBRAE SERVICE: *Originally a service that was observed during each of the last three days of Holy Week, Tenebrae has become a service widely used on the evening of Good Friday. Named from the Latin word for darkness, Tenebrae is a very solemn service that is conducted in subdued lighting and ends in darkness. Despite its somberness, Tenebrae is in no way a ‘funeral’ service for Christ. Instead it is a service that reflects the horrible price that Jesus paid to win the victory that freed us from sin, death and the devil.*

Tenebrae is filled with symbolism. At the beginning of the service candles (normally seven) are placed before the altar and lit. The service is typically constructed of seven readings followed by responsive readings of Psalms and reflective music and hymnody. While the traditional readings reflect the seven last words of Jesus from the Cross, other readings that focus us on the Cross may be used in Tenebrae. At the conclusion of each reading a candle is extinguished and the sanctuary lights are lowered to represent the ebbing life of Christ on the Cross. After the final reading and the extinguishing of the final candle, the Christ Candle is removed from the sanctuary to symbolize Christ’s body being removed from the Cross and placed in the tomb. At the close of the service a large book is slammed shut for the strepitus - the sound symbolizing the sealing of Christ’s tomb.

The service ends in darkness and silence. After silent prayer, the congregation leaves the sanctuary in silence to prepare for our gathering together for the Easter celebration. At the beginning of the Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday night) the Christ candle is brought back into the sanctuary in the darkness remaining from Tenebrae. The Great Vigil of Easter then reverses the light-to-darkness of Tenebrae by moving from darkness to light as we celebrate Christ’s resurrection.

AS WE GATHER

Tonight we gather and ponder the enormity of God’s love through His Son’s death on the cross. Our focus tonight is upon the 7 times that Jesus spoke from the cross recorded in the Scriptures. We hear Jesus as he spoke from the cross from 9-3, and as darkness came over the land from 12-3 as Jesus hung dying on the cross, we see Jesus the “Light of the World,” shining in the darkness. This worship is a variation of a service called Tenebrae, in which darkness comes upon the church as it did when Jesus was on the cross. There is a short sermon after each word from the Cross.

WELCOME

HYMN “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and blood flow mingled down;
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine.
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul, my life my all.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

Responsive Reading Isaiah 53:1-12

(Prophetic words of Isaiah about the Messiah)

Pastor: Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

People: He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

Pastor: He 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.

People: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

Pastor: 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.

People: 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.

Pastor: He 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.

People: By 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.

Pastor: He 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.

People: Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

Pastor: After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

People: 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.

FIRST READING Luke 23:32-34

³²Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

³³When 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.

³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

THE EXTINGUISHING OF A CANDLE

HYMN: #563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" Verses 1 & 4



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

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SECOND READING John 19:25-27

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," ²⁷and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

THE EXTINGUISHING OF A CANDLE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THIRD READING Mark 15:33-35

³³At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

THE EXTINGUISHING OF A CANDLE

HYMN: #547 "The Lamb" Verses 2 & 4

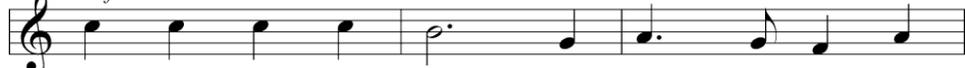


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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FOURTH READING Luke 23:35-43

³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, ³⁷"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?"

⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."⁴³ Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

THE EXTINGUISHING OF A CANDLE

OFFERING #739 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Verses 1 & 2

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
When my life is al - most gone,
And the day is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

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FIFTH READING John 19:28

²⁸Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

THE EXTINGUISHING OF A CANDLE

HYMN "Old Rugged Cross"

Verse 1

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suf- fring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

Refrain

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 someday for a crown.

Verse 2

O that old rugged cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

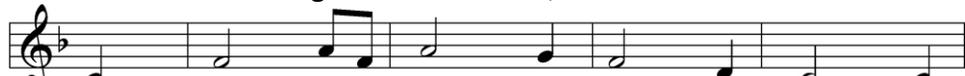
SIXTH READING Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

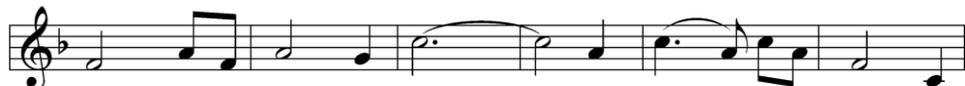
⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

THE EXTINGUISHING OF A CANDLE

SONG #744 "Amazing Grace" Verses 1, 3 & 4



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

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SEVENTH READING John 19:29-30

²⁹A 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.

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

THE EXTINGUISHING OF A CANDLE

SONG #456 "Were You There" Verses 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
4 Were you there when God raised Him from 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 ...
there when God raised Him from 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.
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?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

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PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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**

(After the conclusion of the prayer a loud noise will be heard signifying the closing of the tomb. After this everyone may leave and ponder the enormity of Christ's death, but also ponder in anticipation the promise of Easter.)

**PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY -
IT IS FINISHED!!**

Dear God, We remember today, the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. He paid the price, such a great sacrifice, to offer us the gift of eternal life.

Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy, or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you freely given, what you have done for us.

Thank you, Lord, that by your wounds we are healed. Thank you that because of your huge sacrifice we can live free. Thank you that sin and death have been conquered and that your Power is everlasting.

Thank you that we can say with great hope, "It is finished..." For we know what's still to come. And death has lost its sting. We praise you for you are making all things new. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

EASTER

The Resurrection of Our Lord - April 9^h

8am – Communion Service

9:30am – Communion Service

Continental Breakfast served between services

10:30am Children's Easter Egg Hunt Activities – Gym

12:00pm - Spanish Service