



It Is Finished!

Good Friday
April 7, 2023

Service of Tenebrae

Good Friday is the most solemn of all days in the Christian church year. Yet it is not a day of gloom and condemnation, but a “good” day solemnly rejoicing in Christ’s completed act of redemption, that “with his stripes we are healed.”

Tenebrae is the Latin word for ‘darkness.’ This type of service goes back 1,000 years in the Christian tradition. A series of candles are extinguished during the service to represent the gathering darkness of sin which hangs over the world as the life of the Son of God grows closer and closer to its end. The last candle represents Jesus, reminding us that even in death Jesus is the Light of the world—a light no darkness can overcome (John 1:5).

HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded | #334: congregation
#335: choir

FIRST WORDS

Luke 23:32–34

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

ANTHEM

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

*Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see.
I see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness. Amen.*

SECOND WORDS

Luke 23:35–43

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

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

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted | #297

OFFERING

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THIRD WORDS

John 19:25–27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus | #292, 1–5

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.” ³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

ANTHEM

Forsaken

*How long, O God, will you neglect my prayer?
Will you forget these tears of dark despair?
Yet not my will, but yours alone be done:
Forsake not man, but me your sinless Son.*

*I, Christ the Son, obey your great command,
Enduring punishment for sinful man.
As Son and silent Lamb, I choose this path:
Accept rejection to appease your wrath.*

*O why, my God, have you forsaken me?
Why have you now refused my final plea?
Though I cry out in sorrow, pain, and fear,
You turn your back in silence, in silence disappear.*

*I, Christ the Son, bear all their sin alone,
Embracing judgment from your glorious throne.
As Son and spotless Lamb, I shed my blood
To bring them boldly to your face, my God.*

*I, Christ, the Son, bear all their sin alone,
Embracing judgment from your glorious throne.
As Son and spotless Lamb, I shed my blood
To bring them boldly to your face, my God.
Forsake not man, but me, your sinless Son.*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

FIFTH WORDS

John 19:28–29

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ 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.

HYMN

O Darkest Woe | #332

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.

SIXTH WORDS

John 19:30

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

ANTHEM

The Earth Did Tremble

The earth did tremble; and heaven’s closed eye was loath to see the Lord of Glory die:

The skies were clad in mourning, and the spheres forgot their harmony;

The clouds dropped tears.

Th’ambitious dead arose to give him room; And ev’ry grave did gape to be his tomb.

Th’affrighted heav’n sent down elegious thunder;

The world’s foundation loosed to lose their founder;

Th’impatient temple rent her veil in two.

To teach our hearts what our sad hearts should do:

Shall senseless things do this, and shall not I melt one poor drop to see my Savior die?

Drill forth my tears; and trickle one by one, till you have pierced this heart of mine, this stone.

SEVENTH WORDS

Luke 23:44–46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image | #593

Please leave in silence and rejoice in the resurrection of your Lord!

Preacher..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Organist**..... Karen Merseth
Violinist Peggy Riley | **Choir Director** Allen Labitzky
Flute Ann Werner



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