



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*

GOOD FRIDAY – April 7, 2023

## ORDER OF TENEBRAE

The Tenebrae Service is traditional in the Christian Church and is used during the last days of Holy Week to impress upon the hearts and minds of believers the awe-filled consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice.

The word **Tenebrae** means "darkness." It indicates the darkness which covered the earth at the time of Christ's crucifixion. This darkness is visually portrayed in this service through the gradual extinguishing of the candles and other lights in the church.

The candles traditionally represent the disciples and other followers of our Lord. They gradually take to flight. The ensuing darkness symbolizes the growing resentment and hatred of the world toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Paschal candle symbolizes the Savior Himself. Near the end of the service it is removed from the candle-holder to symbolize the death of Jesus. The candle is not extinguished, but is carried from the chancel. ("A little while and ye shall not see Me.") During the time the Paschal candle is removed, the silence is broken by a noise which symbolizes our participation in the crucifixion of our Lord. The Paschal candle is then returned to its place after "a little while" to remind us that Christ rose again.

## LITURGY OF THE CROSS

**Colossians 2:13-14** "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This, He set aside, nailing it to the cross."

If you find it meaningful, use a sheet of paper in the pew rack to write a personal sin, a stronghold of satan in your life, a guilt that won't go away, or a struggle that you want to give to God. Take the folded sheet with you, nailing it to the cross. No one will look at these sheets of paper. Pastor Jim will place them in a sealed envelope, and they will be destroyed after the service as a sign of our sins being nailed to the cross and buried. Again, this is optional. You may simply want to drive your nail into the cross using the words in your worship folder... ***"Lord Jesus, You were crucified for me. Lord, have mercy."***

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken”

**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?**

## READINGS

### Isaiah 52:13–53:12 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. <sup>14</sup> As many were astonished at You—His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—<sup>15</sup> so shall He sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? <sup>2</sup> 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, and no beauty that we should desire Him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;



**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.**

**P** (v. 5b–6)

upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.



**What is the source of all Your 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.**

**P** (v. 7–9)

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. <sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? <sup>9</sup> And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.



**How strange is this great paradox to ponder:  
 The shepherd dies for sheep who love to wander;  
 The master pays the debt His servants owe Him,  
 Who would not know Him.**

**P** (v. 10–12)

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.



**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!**

## REFLECTION

**P** It is finished.  
Stop and listen a moment.  
Let the words wind through your heart.  
Imagine the cry from the cross.  
The sky is dark.  
The other two victims are moaning.  
Jeering mouths of the crowd are silent.  
Perhaps there is thunder.  
Perhaps there is weeping.  
Perhaps there is silence.  
Then Jesus draws in a deep breath, pushes His feet down on that Roman nail and cries, “It is finished!”  
What was finished?  
The history-long plan of redeeming man was finished.  
The message of God to man was finished.  
The works done by Jesus as a man on earth were finished.  
The sting of death had been removed.  
Jesus really died for you.  
Jesus really died for me.

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

**P** We gather before God, remembering the cross in sorrow and in shame. We seek His forgiveness, strength, and mercy. We remember the day of our Savior's death. We mourn and struggle to understand the depth of Christ's love—that He should suffer and die in our place. Father, our hearts are heavy as we gather in the name of Christ, bearing witness to the terror of His crucifixion, knowing full well that we are guilty sinners, in need of Your forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**C** **Christ our Savior has died for our sins.**

**P** At times, we have failed to strive against evil in the world.

**C** **Christ our Savior has died for our sins.**

**P** At times, we have denied our Lord.

**C** **Christ our Savior has died for our sins.**

**P** At times, we have betrayed our Lord.

**C** **Christ our Savior has died for our sins. Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us forgiveness. Amen.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of our crucified Savior Jesus Christ, announce His grace and mercy to You. In His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 19:12-18 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate sought to release [Jesus], but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

<sup>13</sup>So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" <sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

## HYMN

### **"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"**

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.

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.

Ye who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed,  
See who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,  
Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation,  
Here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,  
Is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,  
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded  
Who on Him their hope have built.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt., Text: Public domain

## LITURGY OF THE CROSS

*(At this time you are invited to come forward to drive your nail into the cross. As you drive your nail you may softly speak these words:*

***“Lord Jesus, You were crucified for me. Lord, have mercy.”)***

## ADMONISHMENTS

**P** Thus says the Lord: “What have I done to you, O My people, and how have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.”

**C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, do not allow us to die an eternal death. O Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Thus says the Lord: “What have I done to you, O My people, and how have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.”

**C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.**



- P** Thus says the Lord: "What have I done to you, O My people, and how have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people."
- C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.**

## THE 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.**

### **"Sacred Head, Wondrous Love"**

Music arr. by Joseph M. Martin

#### **Ascension Choir**

O sacred Head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down.

Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown;  
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain.  
Lord, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, My Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place.  
Look on me with Thy favor, and grant to me Thy grace.

What language can I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?

O make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be.  
Lord let me never, never out live my love to Thee.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I am."  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

Words: P. Gerhardt; American Folk Hymn, Music: American Folk Tunes

**READING****John 19:19–22*****(The King of the Jews.)***

Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”<sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.<sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

(The first candle is extinguished.)

**READING****19:23–24*****(They divide His garments.)***

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,<sup>24</sup> so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things,

(The second candle is extinguished.)

**READING****John 19:25–27*****(Behold your Son, Mother)***

<sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”<sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

(The third candle is extinguished.)

**READING****John 19:28–30**

***(Jesus dies.)***

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

**READING****John 19:31–34**

***(Blood and Water.)***

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

**PROMISE****Isaiah 53:5–6**

***(God's servant pierced for our transgressions.)***

<sup>5</sup> But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

**READING****John 19:38–42**

***(Jesus is sealed in the tomb.)***

<sup>38</sup> After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. <sup>40</sup> So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup> So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

**PROMISE**

**Isaiah 53:9–12**

***(God's Servant assigned a grave with the rich.)***

<sup>9</sup> And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

**RESPONSE**

**“Were You There?”**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh...sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Oh...sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Oh...sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt., Text: Public domain

***(The Paschal Candle is removed,  
symbolizing the burying of Christ.)***

***(The Paschal candle is returned, symbolizing  
God's continuing presence.)***

*(You are asked to leave in silence as the lights become brighter,  
anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of  
Good Friday.)*

*We invite you to our Easter Sunday worship  
at 8:30am or 11:00am  
and Easter Breakfast between services!*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church: 503-665-8821 • Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://www.alcportland.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## **Our Mission Statement:**

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## **Our Vision Statement:**

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God's witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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