

Good Friday, Tenebrae Service

St. Paul Lutheran Church

April 15, 2022

Rev. Daniel Golden, Pastor

As We Gather..."The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we celebrate.." says one of the hymns of Passion week. Good Friday brings us to the heart of that celebrating; combining elements of sorrow and love, despair and victory, death and life. Through the words and actions of this service we observe the completion of Jesus' saving work and pass into the shadows of Tenebrae (darkness) as our Lord's body is placed in the tomb.



Collect of the Day

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem

"Go To Dark Gesthemane"

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

P The Old Testament Reading for Good Friday is from Isaiah, chapters 52 and 53.

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely;

he shall be high and lifted up,

and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you—

his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,

and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so 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.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For 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.

³He 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.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,

smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶All 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. ⁷He 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. ⁸By 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? ⁹And 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. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹Out 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. ¹²Therefore 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.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

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.

Epistle *Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9*

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapters four and five.

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Silence

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

†THE TENEBRAE SERVICE (SERVICE OF DARKNESS)**†**



- **P**: Humbly we adore You, O Christ, and we proclaim Your saving love.
- **G**: By Your holy cross and precious blood You have redeemed the world.
- P: Almighty and everlasting God, who hates nothing which You have made and forgives the sins of all who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretched-ness, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.
- P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

John 18:1-11

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to

them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Homily - Pastor Golden

[The first candle is extinguished]



- **P**: God forbid that I should glory:
- **C**: except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- P: Almighty and everlasting God, since You govern and sanctify the whole Christian Church by Your Holy Spirit, hear our prayers for all its members, and mercifully grant that by Your grace, we may serve You in true faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

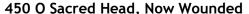
¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

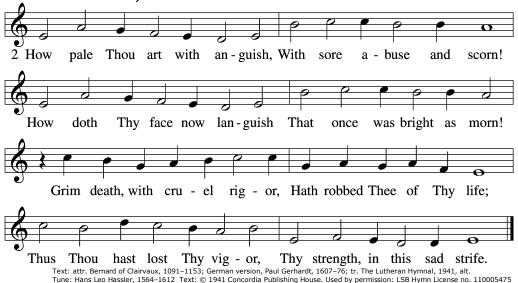
¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Homily - Pastor Golden

[The second candle is extinguished]





P: O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.

Tune: Public domain

C: Do not reward us according to our iniquities.

P: O God, merciful Father, because You do not despise contrite hearts and have mercy on the sorrowful, graciously hear our prayers in the midst of our troubles and adversities. Frustrate the way of wickedness; guard us from evil angels and sharpen our defenses against the cunning craft of the adversary. Increase our faith that we may boldly engage in being Your servants in action and praise; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Jesus Before Pilate John 18:28–40

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Homily - Pastor Golden

[The third candle is extinguished]



P: Help us, O God of our salvation, to proclaim the glory of Your name.

©: Deliver us and purge away our sins for Your name's sake.

P: O Lord, though we deserve Your wrath and punishment, spare us by Your grace that we may be turned away from evils that destroy us and be guided into Your ways of eternal truth and life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion

John 19:1-16

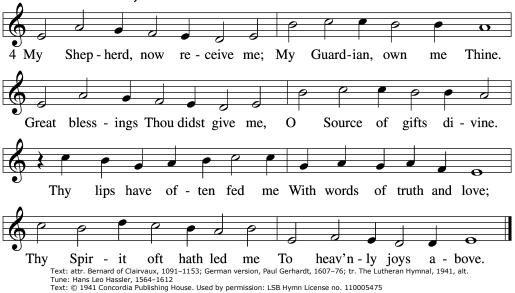
¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁶The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁶When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁶He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹¹Oso Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So 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. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They 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." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Homily - Pastor Golden

[The fourth candle is extinguished]





Tune: Public domain

Please stand for remaining readings

P: Call on Me in the day of trouble.

C: I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, because You desire life for sinners, deliver us from those things that would seek to destroy us and deprive us of the righteousness that is ours through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

John 19:16-24

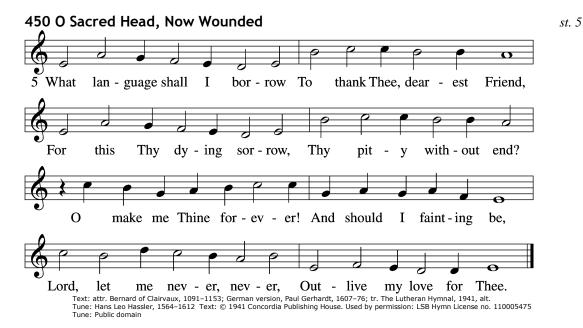
So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many 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. ²¹So 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.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When 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, ²⁴so 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 fifth candle is extinguished]



- **P**: O Lord, enter not into judgment with Your servants.
- **G**: For in Your sight shall no person living be justified.
- P: Almighty God, since You know that we are set in the midst of many and great dangers, and that by reason of our own frailty, we cannot withstand every evil assault, grant us such strength and protection to defend us in the face of dangers, relief from the burden of temptation, and faith to comprehend Your grace when we fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

[The sixth candle is extinguished]



P: You will not abandon Me to the grave,

C: nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.

P: Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is far spent. Continually abide with us and with Your whole Church on earth, that by Word and Sacrament, we may be sustained until we reach our heavenly home. And when death nears, keep us from fear and despair, grounding us securely in the comfort and solace of Your Holy Spirit; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

³¹Since 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. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

³⁸After 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. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now 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. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612
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P: Merciful and everlasting God, who spared not Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all, that He might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be fixed upon Him that we may not fear the power of any adversary; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken softly)

[The seventh candle is extinguished]

The Strepitus

The Christ Candle is lit for the Easter Vigil

***THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO LEAVE IN SILENCE,

in reverence of our Lord's suffering and death.

Tenebrae

The Tenebrae service is one of darkness, reminding us of the darkness of that first Good Friday. We hear the narrative of the events of that day, that includes three hours of "darkness over the whole land from the sixth hour to the ninth hour." The candles are slowly extinguished as the life of "the light of the world" is extinguished and descends into darkness for our sin.

At the end, we hear the "strepitus" or loud noise. This represents the noise of the large stone used to seal the tomb of Jesus. But as with the previous day's service, the Tenebrae service does not have a typical end or closing. We know that Christ has completed the work that he was sent to do. As we prepare to leave, the Paschal or Christ Candle is lit as we wait the three days in somber hope that Jesus will still "go before us to Galilee." We leave the church in silence in reverence of our Lord's suffering and death, but with penitent hearts we look forward to the joy of the resurrection.

PARTICIPANTS:

Elder; Fred Engelhardt Ushers:

Choir/Handbell director: Janet Blessing; Organist: Paula Engelhardt