



Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers

Faith Lutheran Church, Wylie, Texas

Preface to Worship

Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Christ. It is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross. In keeping with this character, music is kept to a minimum, though not silenced. Elaborate words of praise are omitted. The altar remains bare, having been stripped on Holy Thursday.

The Office of Tenebrae is an ancient Holy Week devotion, finding its beginning in the 7th or 8th century after Christ. The name “Tenebrae” means “darkness,” and the service takes its name from the ceremony of extinguishing - in succession - the candles in the chancel, thus, gradually casting the sanctuary into complete darkness. This forms the end of the Good Friday celebration.

There is no Invocation because this service is a continuation from the Maundy Thursday service.

The pastor and congregation enter in silence.

Stand

Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

The Psalms will be sung responsively whole verse by whole verse.

Psalm 22

Psalm 22; antiphon: v. 1



- ¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?*
- Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?
- ²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,*
and by night, but I | find no rest.
- ³Yet you are | holy,*
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- ⁴In you our fathers | trusted;*,
they trusted, and you de- | livered them.
- ⁵To you they cried and were | rescued;*,
in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶But I am a worm and | not a man,*
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
- ⁷All who see me | mock me;*,
they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;
- ⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;*,
let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”

⁹Yet you are he who took me | from the womb; *
you made me trust you at my | mother's breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast | from my birth; *
and from my mother's womb you have | been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me,
for trouble | is near; *
and there is | none to help.

¹²Many bulls en- | compass me; *
strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;

¹³they open wide their | mouths at me; *
like a ravening and roaring | lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are | out of joint; *
my heart is like wax;
it is melted with- | in my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks | to my jaws; *
you lay me in the | dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs en- | compass me; *
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my | hands and feet—

¹⁷I can count | all my bones— *
they stare and gloat | over me;

¹⁸they divide my garments a- | mong them; *
and for my clothing they | cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be | far off! *
O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul | from the sword; *
my precious life from the power | of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the | lion! *
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

²²I will tell of your name to my | brothers; *
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him; *
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his | face from him; *
but has heard, when he | cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation; *
my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.

²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall | praise the LORD! *
May your hearts live for- | ever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn | to the LORD; *
and all the families of the nations
shall worship be- | fore you.

²⁸For kingship belongs | to the LORD; *
and he rules over the | nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship; *
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

even the one who could not keep him- | self alive.
³⁰Posterity shall | serve him; *
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;
³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn, *
that he has | done it.

A candle is extinguished.

Psalm 2

Psalm 2

¹Why do the | nations rage *
and the peoples | plot in vain?
²The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel to- | gether, *
against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying,
³“Let us burst their | bonds apart *
and cast away their | cords from us.”
⁴He who sits in the | heavens laughs; *
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
⁵Then he will speak to them | in his wrath, *
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
⁶“As for me, I have | set my King *
on Zion, my | holy hill.”
⁷I will tell of | the decree: *
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have be- | gotten you.
⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage, *
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.
⁹You shall break them with a | rod of iron *
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”
¹⁰Now therefore, O | kings, be wise; *
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.
¹¹Serve the | LORD with fear, *
and rejoice with | trembling.
¹²Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly | kindled. *
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

A candle is extinguished.

Psalm 27

Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom | shall I fear? *
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I | be afraid?
²When evildoers assail me
to eat | up my flesh, *
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stum- | ble and fall.
³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart | shall not fear; *
though war arise against me,
yet I will be | confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD,
 that will I seek | after; *
 that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
 all the days of my life,
 to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
 and to inquire in his | temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
 in the day of | trouble; *
 he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
 he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
 above my enemies all around me,
 and I will offer in his tent
 sacrifices with | shouts of joy; *
 I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud; *
 be gracious to me and | answer me!

⁸You have said, | “Seek my face.” *
 My heart says to you,
 “Your face, LORD, | do I seek.”

⁹Hide not your face from me.
 Turn not your servant away in | anger, *
 O you who have been my help.
 Cast me not off; forsake me not,
 O God of my sal- | vation!

¹⁰For my father and my mother have for- | saken me, *
 but the LORD will | take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, | O LORD, *
 and lead me on a level path
 because of my | enemies.

¹²Give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries; *
 for false witnesses have risen against me,
 and they breathe out | violence.

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD *
 in the land of the | living!

¹⁴Wait | for the LORD; *
 be strong, and let your heart take courage;
 wait | for the LORD!

A candle is extinguished.



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your | steadfast love; *
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my trans- | gressions.
- ²Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity, *
and cleanse me | from my sin!
- ³For I know my trans- | gressions, *
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
- ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil | in your sight, *
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your | judgment.
- ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity, *
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- ⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being, *
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; *
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and | gladness; *
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins, *
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, | O God, *
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence, *
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation, *
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways, *
and sinners will re- | turn to you.
- ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my sal- | vation, *
and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, open | my lips, *
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.
- ¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would | give it; *
you will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.
- ¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure; *
build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;
- ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings; *
then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

A candle is extinguished.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450, sts. 1-3



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
How doth Thy face now lan-guish That once was bright as morn!
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

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Introduction to Readings

P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

Passion Reading

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." ⁷The 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." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So 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.

A candle is extinguished.

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450, sts. 4-7



4 My Shep-herd, now re-ceive me; My Guard-ian, own me Thine.
 5 What lan-guage shall I bor-row To thank Thee, dear-est Friend,
 6 My Sav-ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
 7 Be Thou my con-so-la-tion, My shield, when I must die;



Great bless-ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di-vine.
 For this Thy dy-ing sor-row, Thy pit-y with-out end?
 Then let Thy pres-ence cheer me, For-sake me nev-er-more!
 Re-mind me of Thy pas-sion When my last hour draws nigh.



Thy lips have of-ten fed me With words of truth and love;
 O make me Thine for-ev-er! And should I faint-ing be,
 When soul and bod-y lan-guish, O leave me not a-lone,
 Mine eyes shall then be-hold Thee, Up-on Thy cross shall dwell,



Thy Spir-it oft hath led me To heav'n-ly joys a-bove.
 Lord, let me nev-er, nev-er, Out-live my love for Thee.
 But take a-way mine an-guish By vir-tue of Thine own!
 My heart by faith en-fold Thee. Who di-eth thus dies well.

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Stand

Passion Reading

John 19:16-42

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and 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, 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.

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.”³⁷ And 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.

Reading Response

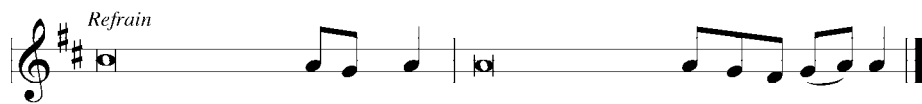
- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

A candle is extinguished.

Responsory



- L** 1 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- 2 Blessed is he whose
transgression is for - giv - en and whose sin is put a - way.
- 3 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.



- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered
for the sins of the peo-ple.

Sit

Office Hymn: "Upon the Cross Extended"

LSB 453



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
 2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will
 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so
 4 I caused Your grief and sigh - ing By e - vils



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
 fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.
 sore a - bused You And caused You all Your woe?
 mul - ti - ply - ing As count - less as the sands.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
 Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came
 We all must make con - fes - sion Of sin and dire trans -
 I caused the woes un - num - bered With which Your soul is



giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
 flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.
 gres - sion While You no ways of e - vil know.
 cum - bered, Your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.

5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
 Your head with thorns surrounded,
 You died to ransom me.
 The cross for me enduring,
 The crown for me securing,
 You healed my wounds and set me free.

6 Your cords of love, my Savior,
 Bind me to You forever,
 I am no longer mine.
 To You I gladly tender
 All that my life can render
 And all I have to You resign.

7 Your cross I place before me;
 Its saving pow'r restore me,
 Sustain me in the test.
 It will, when life is ending,
 Be guiding and attending
 My way to Your eternal rest.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Canticle - Song of Habakkuk

To be sung responsively. The Liturgist will sing the verses and the Congregation will sing the refrain.

Refrain



I will re-joice in the LORD; I will take
joy in the God of my sal - va - tion.

Chant Tone



- ¹ O LORD, I have heard the re- | port of You,*
and Your work, O LORD, | do I fear.
- ² In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years | make it known,*
in wrath remember | mercy.

Refrain

- ³ God came from | Teman,*
and the Holy One from Mount | Paran.
- ⁴ His splendor covered the | heavens,*
and the earth was full | of His praise.
- ⁵ His brightness was like the light; rays flashed | from His hand;*
and there He | veiled His power.
- ⁶ Before Him went | pestilence,*
and plague followed | at His heels.
- ⁷ He stood and mea- | sured the earth;*
He looked and shook the | nations;
- ⁸ then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills | sank low.*
His were the ever- | lasting ways.

Refrain

- ⁹ You went out for the salvation of Your | people,*
for the salvation of Your a- | nointed.
- ¹⁰ You crushed the head of the house of the | wicked,*
laying him bare from | thigh to neck.
- ¹¹ Yet I will rejoice | in the LORD;*
I will take joy in the God of my sal- | vation.
- ¹² God, the LORD, is my strength; He makes my feet | like the deer's;*
He makes me tread on my high | places.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Refrain

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A candle is extinguished.

Prayers

- P** Lord, have mercy.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Christ, have mercy.
C **Christ, have mercy.**
- P** Lord, have mercy.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
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.**

Concluding Collect

- 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 final candle is extinguished.

The strepitus consists of a loud noise. This action has a variety of interpretations, including the scourging by the soldiers, the earthquake at the moment of Christ's death, or the closing of the tomb.

The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light.

Acknowledgments

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