GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Good Friday - Tenebrae: Service of Darkness

**April 2, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.**

AS WE GATHER

*Good Friday is part of the sacred Triduum, the three-day observance of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no Invocation or Benediction. The name may originally have been “God’s Friday,” but it is certainly also “good” because of the good gifts Christ won for us on this day. Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Jesus. It is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption the Lord Jesus 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 service of Tenebrae (meaning “darkness”) consists of the extinguishing of the church lights. Historically, Tenebrae occurred early in the morning at the Offices of Matins and Lauds on all three days of the Triduum. In recent times, the service has been observed only on the evening of Good Friday.*

OPENING RESPONSES

 *Jesus Christ is the light of the world,*

**Lord, have mercy.**

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**Lord, have mercy.**

 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,*

**who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

HYMN“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted,” No. 451

**1 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 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.**

**4 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.**

SALUTATION

 *The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Lord Jesus, You bore the sins of all people in Your body on the tree of the cross that, through Your death, eternal life also might rise anew and that the ancient serpent who overcame us by the tree in the garden might likewise by the tree of Your cross be forever overcome; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God.*

**Amen.**

READINGS “O Dearest Jesus” – Handbell Choir

*Isaiah 52:13–15*

*Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—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.*

*Isaiah 53:1–3*

*Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 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. 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.*

*Isaiah 53:4–5*

*Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But 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.*

*Isaiah 53:6–7*

*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. 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.*

*Isaiah 53:8–9*

*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? 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.*

*Isaiah 53:10–11*

*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. 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.*

*Isaiah 53:12*

*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.*

*Hebrews 4:14–16*

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For 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. Let 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.*

*Hebrews 5:7–9*

*In 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. Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*

ANTHEM“Is This the Savior” – Chapel Choir

**✠ SERVICE OF TENEBRAE ✠**

PASSION READING **-** *John 19:1–16* (Jesus is sentenced to crucifixion.)

MEDITATION

*(The first candle is extinguished.)*

HYMN“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” No. 450, v. 1

 **1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
    With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
    With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
    What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
    I joy to call Thee mine.**

PASSION READING -*John 19:17–22* (Jesus is taken away for execution.)

MEDITATION

*(The second candle is extinguished.)*

HYMN“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, No. 450, v. 2

 **2 How pale Thou art with anguish,
    With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
    That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
    Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
    Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

PASSION READING -*John 19:23–24*  (Soldiers cast lots for Jesus’ garments.)

MEDITATION

*(The third candle is extinguished.)*

HYMN“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” No. 450, v. 3

 **3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
    Was all for sinners’ gain;
Mine, 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.**

PASSION READING **-** *John 19:25–27*  (Jesus on the cross cares for His mother.)

MEDITATION

*(The fourth candle is extinguished.)*

HYMN“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” No. 450, v. 4

 **4 My Shepherd, now receive me;
    My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
    O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
    With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
    To heav’nly joys above.**

PASSION READING - *John 19:28–30* (Jesus dies on the cross.)

MEDITATION

*(The fifth candle is extinguished.)*

HYMN“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” No. 450, v. 5

 **5 What language shall 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,
    Outlive my love for Thee.**

PASSION READING **-** *John 19:31–37*  (Jesus’ side is pierced.)

MEDITATION

*(The sixth candle is extinguished.)*

HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” No. 450, vv. 6 and 7

**6 My Savior, be Thou near me
    When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
    Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
    O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
    By virtue of Thine own!**

**7 Be Thou my consolation,
    My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
    When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
    Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
    Who dieth thus dies well.**

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*(Please stand.)*

PASSION READING *- John 19:38–42* (Jesus is buried.)

 *You will not abandon my soul to the grave,*

**or let Your Holy One see corruption.** *Psalm 16:10*

*Gracious God, abide with us and all Your people for the evening is at hand, and the day is past. Abide with us at the end of this day, at the end of our life, and at the end of all things. Abide with us with Your love and goodness, with Your Holy Word and Sacraments, with the presence of Your Holy Spirit, and with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the shadow of affliction and temptation overcomes us. Abide with us under the shadow of fear and despair when death comes. Abide with us and with all Your people through the end of time and throughout all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

 **Amen.**

*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 on 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.*

**Amen.**

*(The Paschal Candle is removed and taken from the chancel.)*

CLOSING HYMN“Were You There,” No. 456

**1 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?**

**2 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?**

**3 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?**

**4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
    Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
            tremble,  tremble.
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?**

STREPITUS (The stone is rolled in front of the tomb.)

PARTING

(There is no Benediction. The congregation rises quietly and leaves in silence.)

*Participants*

*Preacher. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Pastors Nate Ruback and Eric Stacy*

*Liturgist . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Pastors Nate Ruback and Eric Stacy*

*Organist. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Mrs. Lisa Fackler*

*Special Music . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Chapel Choir*

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