

St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Mark Johnson, President Michael Roehl, Pastor
Angela Pfennig - Organist

Good Friday Tenebrae Service - April 19, 2019

WELCOME: Welcome to all who worship with us this evening. Tonight we will be observing a variation of an ancient form of Good Friday worship known as a Tenebrae Service. The word "*tenebrae*" is a Latin word meaning "*darkness*" or "*shadows*." In the early Christian Church a Tenebrae Service was held in remembrance of the suffering and death of Jesus. During this ancient service a candle was extinguished after each Scripture reading was completed - symbolic of the isolation and suffering of our Lord, and of the black evil of the sins for which He died.

In our worship this evening we continue that ancient tradition with an adaptation of such a service. As each of the seven readings and meditations are completed during the second half of the service, the church is progressively darkened, and one candle is extinguished on the cross in the front of the church. At the end of the service, one candle will remain burning. This is the Christ candle. This candle will be carried out at the end of the service to symbolize Christ's three days in the tomb. Yet our Savior was not overcome by death; He overcame sin and hell *through* death. When Jesus died on the cross, neither his spirit nor God's love for mankind died. That is why the Christ candle remains lighted. The burial of our Savior only serves to heighten our anticipation of the celebration of Easter morning, where God raised His Son from the dead and gave to mankind His assurance of sins forgiven and Life Eternal.

Though the death of our Savior has now removed the threat and terror of death for us sinners, Good Friday remains a most solemn observance. Therefore, this evening we ask that you refrain from talking following the service until after you leave the sanctuary. This is a time for prayerful reflection on the part of God's Children. Though you may find it difficult to see and read by the end of the service, this serves also to remind us of the spiritual darkness that would envelop us if not for our Savior Jesus.

May God bless your meditation and worship this evening.

The Order of Service

The Opening Prayer by the Pastor

The Opening Hymn -140 (Stanzas 1-4)

"Jesus I Will Ponder Now"

The Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (Spoken) AMEN

The Responsive and Confession

(Based on the Seven Words of Christ)

P: Dear Heavenly Father, on this most solemn occasion we ask You to look on us with compassion. We confess our many sins to You and ask You to forgive us for Jesus' sake, even as also He interceded for us from the cross...

C: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

P: We are ashamed of our past lawlessness and we realize that we deserve nothing but punishment. According to Your mercy forgive us, as you did the repentant thief who died with your Son. Speak to our hearts with the words Your dear Son spoke to him...

C: "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P: Provide, O Lord, for our earthly needs, as even in Your most bitter agony You provided for Your dear mother...

C: "Dear woman, here is your son..."

P: We thank and praise You, Dear Savior, that You suffered hell for us - in our place. Now we need never fear the separation from God that You had to suffer...

C: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

P: Send, we pray, the Holy Spirit into our hearts to strengthen our faith. Grant to us a longing and a thirst for Your Words of Life...

C: "I thirst."

P: Grant that we never try to do for ourselves what only Your Son could do for us. We acknowledge that our salvation is complete in Jesus' suffering and death, and that our own works can earn us nothing. The debt has been paid in full...

C: "It is finished!"

P: Finally, Dear Father, take us, from this day forward, and make us Your own in all things. We are Your servants, with our dying breath may we pray as did Your Son...

C: "Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit."

The Gospel Lesson For Good Friday

- Matthew 27:45-66

Our Confession of Faith - The Apostolic Creed (Sup p.15)

Our Response to the Gospel - Hymn -175 (Stanzas 1-3)

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

**Meditations on the Seven
Words of Christ on the Cross**

The First Word

Luke 23:32-34: *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

The First Meditation

Prayer (Spoken by all) FORGIVE US, DEAR LORD, FOR
OUR MANY SINS. THOSE THAT TROUBLE OUR
HEARTS, AND THOSE THAT ARE KNOWN ONLY
TO YOU. AMEN.

Our Response to the First Word - Hymn 143 (1,3 & 5)

The Second Word

Luke 23:39-43: "Truly I say to you,
today you will be with Me in Paradise..."

The Second Meditation

Prayer (Spoken by all)
LORD JESUS, GRANT US A STRONG FAITH, THAT
WE TOO MAY JOIN YOU IN PARADISE, WHEN
YOU CALL US FROM THIS LIFE. AMEN.

Our Response to the Second Word - Hymn 181

The Third Word

John 19:25-27: "Woman, behold, your son!"

The Third Meditation

Prayer (*Spoken by all*)

**COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR, PROVIDE YOUR
TENDER CARE FOR EACH OF US IN ALL OUR
NEEDS, BOTH OF BODY AND SOUL. AMEN.**

Our Response to the Third Word - Hymn 182

The Fourth Word

**Mark 15:33-34: "My God, my God, why
have you forsaken me?"**

The Fourth Meditation

The Prayer (*Spoken by all*)

**LORD JESUS, GRANT THAT THE MESSAGE OF
YOUR SUFFERING MIGHT REMIND US THAT
YOU CONTINUE TO LOVE US, EVEN THROUGH
ALL OF LIFE'S SORROWS. AMEN.**

Our Response to the Fourth Word - Hymn 174 (V. 3)

The Fifth Word

John 19:28-29: "I thirst..."

The Fifth Meditation

The Prayer (*Spoken by all*)

**O PERFECT SAVIOR, WHEN WE SEE SUCH
GREAT EVIDENCE OF SIN IN OUR LIVES, FILL
US WITH CONFIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE DONE
ALL THINGS PERFECTLY, AND THAT YOU
HAVE KEPT THE FATHER'S WILL IN OUR
PLACE. AMEN.**

Our Response to the Fifth Word - Hymn 184

The Sixth Word

John 19:30: "It is finished!"

The Sixth Meditation

The Prayer *(Spoken by all)*

**O VICTORIOUS SAVIOR REMOVE, WE PRAY, ALL
OF OUR FEARS, FOR YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED
ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR OUR SALVATION,
AND HAVE DELIVERED TO US THE VICTORY
OVER SIN, DEATH AND HELL. AMEN.**

Our Response to the Sixth Word - Hymn 159 (Verse 3)

The Seventh Word

**Luke 23:46:"Father, into your hands
I commit my spirit."**

The Seventh Meditation

The Prayer *(Spoken by all)*

**LORD JESUS, THROUGH LIFE MAY WE REST IN
YOUR HAND, AND IN DEATH MAY WE COMMIT
OURSELVES TO YOUR CARE. WE TRUST THAT
IT WAS FOR OUR ETERNAL LIFE THAT YOU DIED.
PRESERVE US UNTO OUR END. AMEN.**

Our Response to the Seventh Word - Hymn 147

The Benediction by the Pastor

***P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of
God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.*

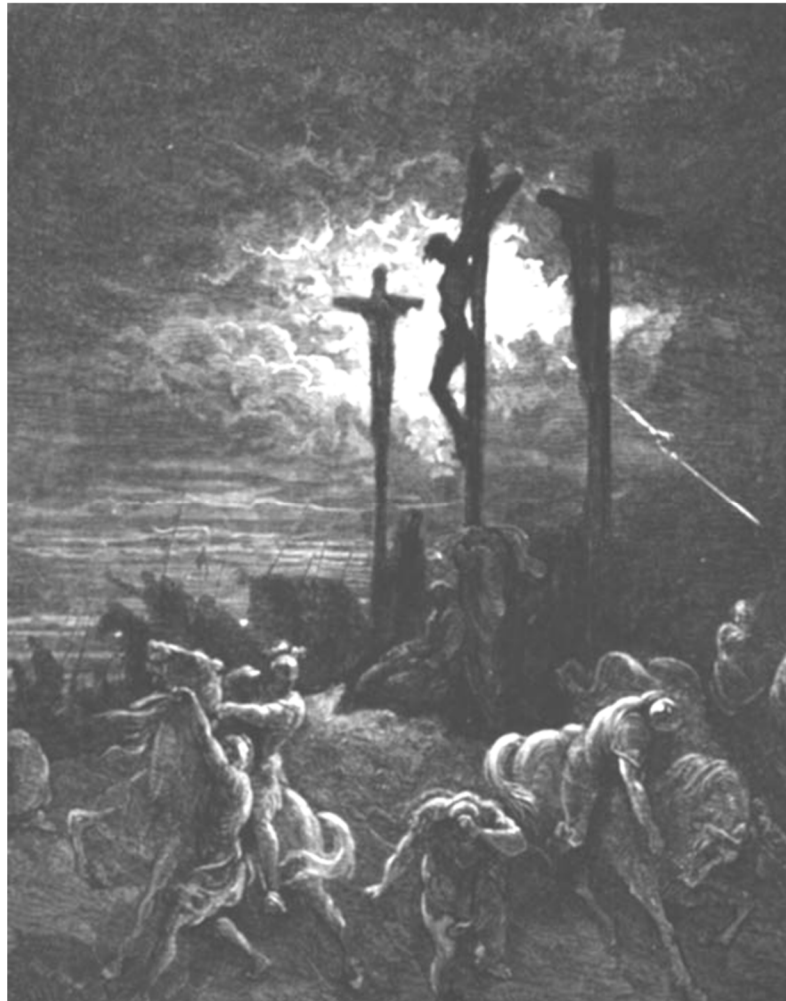
C: (Spoken) AMEN

The Exit of the Christ Candle

Silent Prayer

We ask that on this solemn occasion you please leave the church in silence after you have concluded your silent prayers. If you wish, you may remain in the sanctuary for personal meditation. Please refrain from speaking until you have left the sanctuary, and out of respect for those wishing to remain please greet each other quietly outside of the church.

As you leave, it would be fitting to think of those events that occurred on that first Good Friday, how it was also your sin that caused our Lord's suffering and death, and then also of the victory that our Savior won for us through His sacrifice.



Announcements

Easter Sunday Schedule—Our schedule on Sunday begins with our annual Men's Breakfast, which means that men from the congregation prepare an Easter breakfast and serve the members of the congregation. Please also feel free to bring friends and family. We will serve, God willing, from 8:00 to 9:30. Volunteer servers are asked to be at the church by about 7:30 a.m.

Our day then continues with our Easter Sunday celebration, beginning at the regular time (10:00 a.m.) Please note that there is no Sunday School or Bible Class scheduled for Easter Sunday.

