

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

March 29, 2024

7:00 PM

As We Gather

We celebrate victory in defeat, life in death, innocence in condemnation. We celebrate the great exchange, that He who knew no sin became sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). On the cross, the condemnation of One becomes acquittal for all, apparent defeat for One became victory for all, and the brutal death of One became the entrance to eternal life for all who trust in Him. This is the good tragedy we celebrate today.

The service includes the reading of the Passion as part of the Tenebrae, the Service of Shadows. The sanctuary will gradually grow darker as candles are extinguished and lights are dimmed. This is to represent the extinguishing of the life of the Son of God, our Savior. May God bless our meditation this evening as He draws us to the cross.

+ Service of the Word +

We gather around the cross to hear the Word of the Lord.

Prayer

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant will act wisely;
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.
¹⁴Just as there were many who were appalled at him—
his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being
and his form marred beyond human likeness—
¹⁵so he will sprinkle many nations,
and kings will shut their mouths because of him.
For what they were not told, they will see,
and what they have not heard, they will understand.

53 Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
²He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
³He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Epistle Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

⁷During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Hymn “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” LSB 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.	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.
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.	4 Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost: Christ, the Rock of our salvation, His 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.

Prayer

After each prayer

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

+ Tenebrae: The Service of Shadows +

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit

Reader: Call on Me in the day of trouble.
People: **I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me.**

Reading Luke 22:39-46

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The first candle is extinguished.)

Hymn "Go to Dark Gethsemane" LSB 436, stanzas 1-2

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r; Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with Him one bitter hour; Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.	Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned; Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn from him to bear the cross.
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The Shadow of Arrest

Reader: O Lord, deal not with us after our sins.
People: **Do not reward us according to our iniquities.**

Reading John 18:1-8

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

⁵ “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.”

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The second candle is extinguished.)

Hymn “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” LSB 439, stanzas 1 & 3

1 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?

3 Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,
This I do merit.

The Shadow of Denial

Reader: O Lord, enter not into judgment with Your servants.

People: **For in Your sight shall no person living be justified.**

Reading Matthew 26:69-75, 27:1-5

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said.

⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

⁷¹ Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. ² So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

³ When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴ "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The third candle is extinguished.)

Hymn

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

LSB 440, stanzas 1-2

1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain, and death
That I may not perish.

2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion:
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

The Shadow of Accusation

Reader: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;

People: **Unite my heart to fear Your name.**

Reading: Mark 15:1-15

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

² "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹ “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted.

¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.
But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

Choral Anthem

*“The Hill Called Calvary”
Arr. David Peninger*

Sanctuary Choir

A man once hung upon a tree
There at the hill called Calvary.
In bitter pain beneath the sky,
A man hung there to bleed and die.

Between two thieves they nailed the man,
And thus fulfilled God’s holy plan.
His blessed life He gladly gave
For us, the lost, He came to save.

His blood was shed for all mankind;
His body bruised that we might find
Salvation through His sacrifice.
In death He paid the final price.

All glory be to God on high
Who sent the man to live and die.
He comforts us in times of strife,
Through faith in Him we gain eternal life.

The Shadow of Mockery

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

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

Reading: **Matthew 27:27-31**

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

Hymn

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanzas 1-3

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.

2 How pale Thou are 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.

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 me to Thy grace.

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Reader: God forbid that I should glory:

People: **Except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reading **Matthew 27:32-44**

³²As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ³⁴There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁸Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴²"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

Hymn "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" LSB 437, stanzas 1-4

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For his own creatures' sin.

2 Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

The Shadow of Death

Reader: Humbly we adore You. O Christ, and we proclaim Your saving love.

People: **By Your holy cross and precious blood You have redeemed the world.**

Reading: **Luke 23:44-49**

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." ⁴⁸When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

Hymn**“Upon the Cross Extended” LSB 453, stanzas 1, 3, 4, 5**

1 Upon the cross extended
 See, world, your Lord suspended,
 Your Savior yields His breath.
 The Prince of Life from heaven
 Himself hath freely given
 To shame and blows and bitter death.

4 I caused Your grief and sighing
 By evils multiplying
 As countless as the sands.
 I caused the woes unnumbered
 With which You soul is cumbered,
 Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You?
 Who has so sore abused You
 And caused You all Your woe?
 We all must make confession
 Of sin and dire transgression
 While You no ways of evil know.

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.

The Shadow of Burial

Reader: You will not abandon Me to the grave,
People: **Nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.**

Reading Mark 15:42-46

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

(The eight candle is extinguished.)

Hymn**“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” LSB 450, stanzas 5-7**

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.

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.

The Lord's Prayer *(spoken softly by all)*

**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**

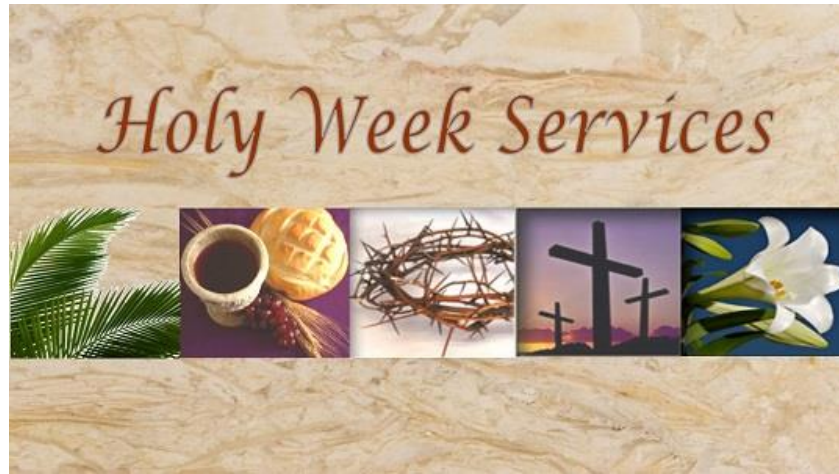
*(The last candle is carried out. During the darkness the congregation is invited to meditate
silently on Christ's suffering and death. After a time, a loud noise is made symbolizing the
closing and sealing of the tomb.)*

*(The candle is returned, symbolizing God's continued presence.
Please maintain silence while departing.)*

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

(You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)



March 30	Easter Vigil	8:00 PM
March 31	Easter Sunday	8:30 AM – Sanctuary – No Streaming 10:30 AM – Sanctuary and Streaming

Serving in Worship Tonight

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Gerry Schneider, Gunnar De Young, Sarah Kramer, Susan Clark, Kristi Carey
Sound Technician	Chris Newman
Streaming Technician	Joel Wahlers
Acolyte	Elora Stepp
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Ushers	Clint & Bev Holdsworth
Projection Technician	Dawn Wahlers
Organist	Erin Blackwood