



“SURELY HE WAS THE SON OF GOD...”

Good Friday
Tenebrae 2020

Tenebræ

On Good Friday, the church remembers the crucifixion of her Lord. Her remembrance, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but a *service of adoration* of the Son of God as he offers up his life as the Lamb of God. Good Friday is part of the larger celebration of the mystery of salvation beginning on Maundy Thursday and culminating in the proclamation of the Easter message, "He is risen!"

To impress upon the hearts and minds of believers the terrible consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient church would hold a special service called the "Tenebrae" on the last days of Holy Week. *Tenebrae* is a Latin word meaning "shadows" or "darkness." The gradual extinguishing of the candles and darkening of the church during the service remind us of the events that led to the awe-full darkness that covered the earth when our Savior hung on the cross.

The climax of the service, the announcement of Christ's death, is accompanied by a loud noise symbolic of the closing of the tomb.

Although the Tenebrae is a solemn service, it is not without hope. Throughout the service, one candle – the Christ Candle – will be left burning on the altar to remind us of our Lord's abiding presence.

Good Friday Tenebræ 2020

Welcome

Hymn: "Go To Dark Gethsemane"

CW, 104:1-2

**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 of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall; View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn of him to bear the cross.**

Tenebræ

Observing the Darkness of Sin & the Danger of Eternal Death

P: Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Seek the Lord while he may be found.

C: **Call on him while he is near.**

P: Let the wicked forsake his way,

C: **and the evil man his thoughts.**

P: Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him,

C: **and to our God, for he will freely pardon.**

P: Who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?

C: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart; he shall receive blessings from the Lord.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Precious Savior, the darkness of your hours on the cross surrounds us. We sense what you experienced as you faced the dreadful assaults of Satan as our substitute. We are awed by the commitment to your Father, and to us, that drove you on to the cross to die. Confident that in you we will find help in our time of need, we come to make confession of our sins.

C: **O most holy and righteous Savior and Lord, I am a sinner whose thoughts, words, and actions testify to the evil that lurks within. Though I try to drown my old Adam with his evil deeds and desires by daily contrition and repentance, yet he continues to overcome me. Hear my cry for mercy. Take from me the sin that I have inherited and the sins that I have committed, for the sake of your holy, precious blood and your innocent sufferings and death.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

REFLECTIONS ON THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Normally the church becomes gradually darker... for this LiveStream we'll extinguish candles.

First Word

Luke 23:32-34

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”**

Meditation on the Word

Congregational Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verse 1)

Christian Worship 139

**Jesus, in your dying woes, even while your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for your foes: hear us, holy Jesus!**

Second Word

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, **“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

Meditation on the Word

Congregational Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verse 2)

Christian Worship 139

**Jesus, pitying the sighs of the thief who near you dies,
Promising him paradise: hear us, holy Jesus!**

Third Word

John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "**Dear woman, here is your son,**" and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**"

Meditation on the Word

Congregational Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verse 3)

Christian Worship 139

**Jesus, loving to the end her whose heart your sorrows rend,
And your dearest human friend: hear us, holy Jesus!**

Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "**Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?**" – which means, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"

Meditation on the Word

Congregational Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verse 4)

Christian Worship 139

**Jesus, plunged in depths unknown with our evil foe alone,
While no light from heav'n is shown: hear us, holy Jesus!**

Fifth Word

John 19:28

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**"

Meditation on the Word

Congregational Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verse 5)

Christian Worship 139

**Jesus, in your thirst and pain, while your wounds the lifeblood drain,
Thus fulfilling Scripture's plan: hear us, holy Jesus!**

Sixth Word

John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **"It is finished."**

Meditation on the Word

Congregational Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (verse 6)

Christian Worship 139

**Jesus, all our ransom paid, all your Father's will obeyed,
By your suff'rings perfect made: hear us, holy Jesus!**

Seventh Word

Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, **"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."**

Meditation on the Word

Hymn: "Go To Dark Gethsemane"

CW, 104:3-4

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb There' adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" Hear him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

**Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom; Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes: Savior, teach us so to rise.**

Closing of the Tomb

*(At this time, the **strepitus** is heard, a noise signifying the closing of the tomb and the earthquake. After the service the Christ Candle is taken back into the chancel, but not extinguished, in anticipation of our Lord's resurrection. Please return in joy in three days.)*

Lord's Prayer (prayed silently)

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

The pastor says the closing prayer.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen**

When we gather at church we leave the sanctuary in silence to contemplate the supreme sacrifice which our Savior made for us. It is a sign of sorrow, of honor for the person who has died and a time of reflection on the events which changed this from another Friday on the calendar into GOOD FRIDAY – for he, the Son of God, was good in every way and even his death has made things “all good for anyone who believes.”

Participants of Tonight's Service

Preacher: Pastor Steve Pagels
Keyboard: Sarah Baumann
Vocalist: Matt Berger



PLEASE JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY MORNING TO CELEBRATE

THE LORD'S RESURRECTION!

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service (Recorded)

9:30 a.m. Festival Service (Live Stream)

We extend our sincere thanks to all the musicians and vocalists of Our Savior for their labor of love to their Savior and his people during this Holy Week.