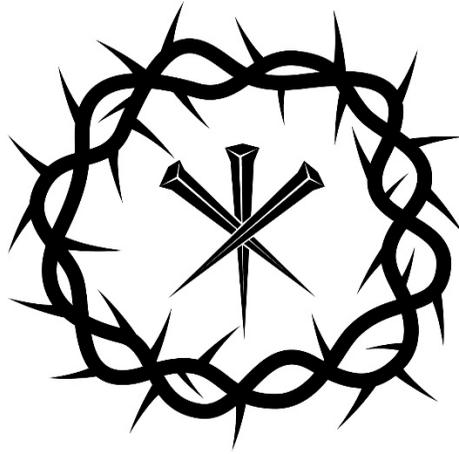




**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
March 29, 2024**



A NOTE ABOUT OUR SERVICE

Tonight's service is a Tenebrae, or service of darkness. This service reflects on the Lord's crucifixion and our repentance through lessons and hymns. Over the course of the service, candles are extinguished until only one remains. That candle is removed from the chancel, leaving the sanctuary in darkness. The service closes with a *strepitus*, a loud noise that foreshadows the rending of Christ's tomb on Easter. The solitary candle is then returned to the sanctuary in anticipation of the resurrection.

After the solitary candle returns in anticipation of the resurrection, the lights in the sanctuary will be turned on. The congregation can remain as long as they would like for prayer and meditation before dispersing on their own.

Tonight we contemplate the wondrous love of God as Jesus takes his final steps to the cross. As we do so, we consider just how great the width and breadth and height and depth of God's love runs for us as the Lord delivers us from this world and restores us to himself.

What Wondrous Love is This?

CW 526

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing his love for me,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

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Stand

Prayer for Good Friday

Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 53:1-53:12 Prophesied Love

¹Who 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.

He 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.

Surely he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him, and afflicted.

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.

⁶We 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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.

⁹He 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.**

Be seated

The Lamb

CW 525

- 1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price! (Refrain)
- Ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.
- 2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
one perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
let earth join heav'n his praise to sing. (Refrain)
- 3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
as wayward sheep their shepherd kill
so still, his will,
on our behalf the law to fill. (Refrain)
- 4 He sighs, he dies,
he takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
he gives me his own righteousness. (Refrain)

5 He rose, he rose,
my heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
till ev'ry heart to him belong. (Refrain)

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The Second Reading

Luke 23:26-34 Forgiving Love

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” ³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” ³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Prayer

Silence for Meditation

The first candle is extinguished

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

CW 428

- 1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded,
with thorns your only crown,
O sacred head, no glory
now from your face does shine;
yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call you mine.

- 2 My burden in your passion,
Lord, you have borne for me,
for it was my transgression,
my shame, on Calvary.
I cast me down before you;
wrath is my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore you;
Redeemer, spurn me not!

- 3 What language shall I borrow
to thank you, dearest Friend,
for this, your dying sorrow,
your pity without end?
O make me yours forever,
and keep me strong and true;
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for you.

- 4 Lord, be my consolation,
my shield when I must die;
remind me of your passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
My eyes will then behold you,
upon your cross will dwell;
my heart will then enfold you—
who dies in faith dies well!

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The Third Reading

Luke 23:35-43 Eternal Love

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Prayer

Silence for Meditation

The second candle is extinguished

O Perfect Life of Love

CW 431

- 1 O perfect life of love!
All, all is finished now,
all that he left his throne above
to do for us below.
- 2 No work is left undone
of all the Father willed;
his toil, his sorrows, one by one,
the Scriptures have fulfilled.
- 3 No pain that we can share
but he has felt its smart;
all forms of human grief and care
have pierced that tender heart.

- 4 And on his thorn-crowned head
and on his sinless soul
our sins in all their guilt were laid
that he might make us whole.
- 5 In perfect love he dies;
for me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
you died to make me free!
- 6 In ev'ry time of need,
before the judgment throne,
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
your merits, not my own.

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The Fourth Lesson

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

By night, and am not silent.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;

You are the praise of Israel.

In you our fathers put their trust;

They trusted and you delivered them.

M: They cried to you and were saved;

In you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man,

Scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

They hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Yet you brought me out of the womb;

You made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

From birth I was cast upon you;

From my mother's womb you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,

For trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls surround me;

Strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Roaring lions tearing their prey

Open their mouths wide against me.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

You lay me in the dust of death.

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,

They have pierced my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones;

People stare and gloat over me.

They divide my garments among them

And cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;

O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Deliver my life from the sword,

My precious life from the power of the dogs.

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;

Save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

Prayer

Silence for Meditation

The third candle is extinguished

God Was There on Calvary

CW 433

- 1 God was there on Calvary,
God the Father's only Son,
dying that the world might live,
there on Calvary.
- 2 All the world on Calvary
crucified the Prince of life,
pierced the hands of God's own Son,
there on Calvary.
- 3 Sin was there on Calvary,
all the sins of ev'ryone,
laid upon God's sinless Lamb
there on Calvary.
- 4 Love was there on Calvary,
streaming from the heart of God,
reaching out for ev'ryone
there on Calvary.
- 5 Life was there on Calvary,
flowing from his wounded side,
spent that death itself might die
there on Calvary.
- 6 We were there on Calvary;
we were pardoned, saved, set free,
saved to live eternally—
blessèd Calvary!

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The Fifth Reading

John 19:25-27 Overflowing Love

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Prayer

Silence for Meditation

The fourth candle is extinguished

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

CW 435

- 1 Jesus, in your dying woes,
even while your lifeblood flows,
craving pardon for your foes:
hear us, holy Jesus!
- 2 Jesus, pitying the sighs
of the thief who near you dies,
promising him paradise:
hear us, holy Jesus!
- 3 Jesus, loving to the end
her whose heart your sorrows rend,
and your dearest human friend:
hear us, holy Jesus!
- 4 Jesus, plunged in depths unknown
with our evil foe alone,
while no light from heav'n is shown:
hear us, holy Jesus!
- 5 Jesus, in your thirst and pain,
while your wounds the lifeblood drain,
thus fulfilling Scripture's plan:
hear us, holy Jesus!

6 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
all your Father's will obeyed,
by your sufferings perfect made:
hear us, holy Jesus!

7 Jesus, all your labor vast,
all your woe and conflict past,
yielding up your soul at last:
hear us, holy Jesus!

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The Sixth Reading

Love and Justice Meet

Matthew 27:45-53

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). ⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” ⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

Prayer

Silence for Meditation

The fifth candle is extinguished

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 430

- 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, as you 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 If you think of sin but lightly
nor suppose the evil great,
here you see 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.

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The Seventh Reading

Luke 23:44-49 Sacrificial Love

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Prayer

Silence for Meditation

The sixth candle is extinguished

Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor

CW 437

The Cantor will sing verses one and two. The congregation will sing verses three and four.

- 1 Rest, O Christ, from all your labor;
sleep within your borrowed tomb.
Foes have crucified and bound you
fast within death’s narrow room.
Pilate’s guards stand watching, waiting
where they rolled the sealing stone.
All unseen another watches:
God will not forsake his own.
- 2 Peace at last from all your anguish,
wounds in hands and feet and side.
Enemies no longer mock you,
scourged, abandoned, crucified.
Faithful women gather spices,
weep for you whom sin has slain.
Though they mourn, the God who guards you
will not let your death be vain.

3 Help us keep this solemn Sabbath
as we wait for Easter dawn.
Earth's dark night of sin is passing;
death's long reign will soon be gone.
Christ, in whom the new creation
rises brighter than the sun:
may we, as we watch for morning,
trust the vict'ry you have won.

4 As, through parting Red Sea waters,
Israel marched to liberty,
so we pass through baptism's water,
washed by grace, from sin set free.
Jesus, risen, living, reigning
now and through eternity:
grant that, through your life undying,
we may live victoriously.

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The Eighth Reading

John 19:31-42 Love Responds

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken,"³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The seventh candle is carried from the chancel.

A loud noise (strepitus) representing the rending of Christ's tomb is heard, and the seventh candle is returned to the chancel.

Worshippers may remain for prayer and meditation and disperse as they desire.

Offerings may be placed in the plate as you exit the sanctuary.