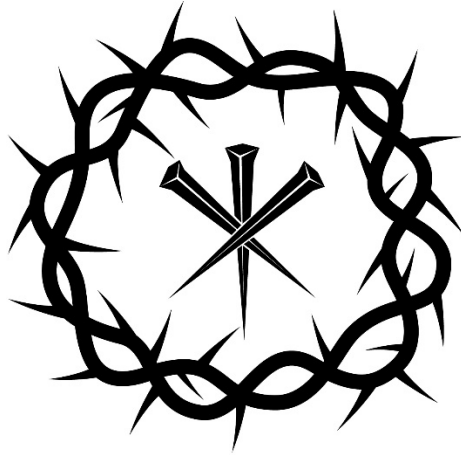




Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
April 18, 2025
7:00 p.m.



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 words Jesus spoke on the cross. As we do so, we consider how those words reveal the depth of God's love for us.

Worshipers may gather in silence.

The minister enters in silence.

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

CW 394



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, wound - ed, par - a -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'tis a soul - re -



by the fall; here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; from in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
lyzed, and blind; here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



flows to you, to me, to all, in a full, per -
from the lep - ro - sy of sin, wash your robes and
here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
break his cov - e - nant of blood, signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, o - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; you shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; they that drink shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, sealed when he was glo - ri - fied.

Prayer

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, forever and ever.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

¹³See, 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—

¹⁵**so 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.

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.

³**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.**

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

⁵But 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.**

¹⁰Yet 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.

¹¹After 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

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 430



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, see him dy-ing on the
 2 Tell me, as you hear him groan-ing, was there ev-er grief like
 3 If you think of sin but light-ly nor sup-pose the e-vil
 4 Here we have a firm foun-da-tion, here the ref-uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; yes, my
 his, friends through fear his cause dis-own-ing, foes in-
 great, here you see its na-ture right-ly, here its
 lost: Christ, the rock of our sal-va-tion, is the



soul, 'tis he, 'tis he. 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed
 sult-ing his dis-tress? Man-y hands were raised to
 guilt may es-ti-mate. Mark the sac-ri-fice ap-
 name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin-ners



Proph-et, Da-vid's son, yet Da-vid's Lord; proofs I
 wound him, none would in-ter-vene to save; but the
 point-ed, see who bears the aw-ful load; 'tis the
 wound-ed, sac-ri-fice to can-cel guilt! None shall



see suf-fi-cient of it: 'tis the true and faith-ful Word.
 deep-est stroke that pierced him was the stroke that jus-tice gave.
 Word, the Lord's a-noint-ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
 ev-er be con-found-ed who on him their hope have built.

First Word

Luke 23:32–34

³²Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³When 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. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;
They pierce my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.

He bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Gracious Savior, you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern, and enlighten us to know and do your will.
Amen.

*Silence for meditation.
The first candle is extinguished.*

O Perfect Life of Love

CW 431



- 1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,
2 No work is left un - done of all the Fa - ther willed;
3 No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;
4 And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sin - less soul



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.
his toil, his sor-rows, one by one, the Scrip-tures have ful - filled.
all forms of hu - man grief and care have pierced that ten - der heart.
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.

Second Word

Luke 23:35-43

³⁵The 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.”

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

³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.

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

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

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

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

All who see me mock me;

They hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him.

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

Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people.

Come to my aid when you save them.

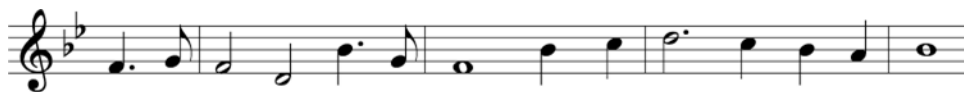
Mighty Redeemer, remember us as we walk through the darkest valleys of life and realize that our time on earth is ending. Stay close to us when we feel the pain and loneliness of dying and take away our fears with your certain promise of paradise.

Amen.

*Silence for meditation.
The second candle is extinguished.*

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CW 839



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Third Word

John 19:25-27

²⁵Near 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," ²⁷and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.
And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?
**Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother.**

Precious Jesus, you consider us friends and care about the needs of our bodies and souls.
Keep us in your care as we walk the road of life and provide the blessings we need to gain
safety, contentment, and joy in your service.
Amen.

*Silence for meditation.
The third candle is extinguished.*

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

CW 435 sts. 1, 3, 6-7



1 Je - sus, in your dy - ing woes, e - ven while your life - blood flows,
3 Je - sus, lov - ing to the end her whose heart your sor - rows rend,
6 Je - sus, all our ran - som paid, all your Fa - ther's will o - beyed,
7 Je - sus, all your la - bor vast, all your woe and con - flict past,



crav - ing par - don for your foes: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!
and your dear - est hu - man friend: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!
by your suf - f' rings per - fect made: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!
yield - ing up your soul at last: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!

Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

⁴⁵From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

⁴⁶About 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?”).

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

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

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

by night, but I find no rest.

“In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight.”

Lord Jesus, you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin and call us to acknowledge the amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and give us grateful faith.

Amen.

*Silence for meditation.
The fourth candle is extinguished.*

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

CW 429 sts. 1, 4-7



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and
4 My bur - den in your pas - sion, Lord, you have
5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you,
6 My Sav - ior, then be near me when death is
7 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion, my shield when



shame weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed,
borne for me, for it was my trans - gres - sion,
dear - est Friend, for this, your dy - ing sor - row,
at my door, and let your pres - ence cheer me;
I must die; re - mind me of your pas - sion



with thorns your on - ly crown, O sa - cred head, no
my shame, on Cal - va - ry. I cast me down be -
your pit - y with - out end? O make me yours for -
for - sake me nev - er - more! When soul and bod - y
when my last hour draws nigh. My eyes will then be -



glo - ry now from your face does shine; yet, though de -
fore you; wrath is my right - ful lot. Have mer - cy,
ev - er, and keep me strong and true; Lord, let me
lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone, but take a -
hold you, up - on your cross will dwell; my heart will



spised and go - ry, I joy to call you mine.
I im - plore you; Re - deem - er, spurn me not!
nev - er, nev - er out - live my love for you.
way my an - guish by vir - tue of your own!
then en - fold you— who dies in faith dies well!

Fifth Word

John 19:28, 29

²⁸After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.

They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Dear Jesus, as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. Knowing our experiences, hover over us with your care and compassion when our bodies and hearts are hurting. Provide us with strength that we may confess you with confidence and power.
Amen.

*Silence for meditation.
The fifth candle is extinguished.*

Were You There?

Sung by the soloist.



Sixth Word

John 19:30

³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.
I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.
I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.

Gracious Redeemer, you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil's claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our entire confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace.

Amen.

Silence for meditation.
The sixth candle is extinguished.

The Lamb

CW 525

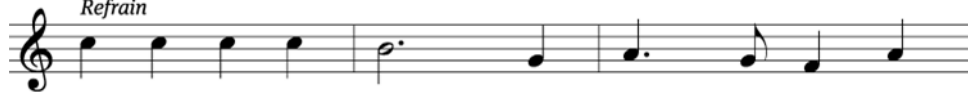


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
 so still, his will, on our be - half the law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own right - eous - ness.
 His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

Seventh Word

Luke 23:44–46

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.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Loving Savior, at the moment of your death you gave yourself into the loving hands of your Father. As we close our eyes in death, lead us to commit our bodies and souls to him who has summoned us by name and made us his own because of you and your love. Then, we pray, let us depart in peace.
Amen.

Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor

CW 437



1 Rest, O Christ, from all your la - bor; sleep with -
 2 Peace at last from all your an - guish, wounds in
 3 Help us keep this sol - emn Sab - bath as we
 4 As, through part - ing Red Sea wa - ters, Is - rael



in your bor-rowed tomb. Foes have cru - ci - fied and
 hands and feet and side. En - e - mies no long - er
 wait for Eas - ter dawn. Earth's dark night of sin is
 marched to lib - er - ty, so we pass thro' bap-tism's



bound you fast with - in death's nar - row room.
 mock you, scourged, a - ban - doned, cru - ci - fied.
 pass - ing; death's long reign will soon be gone.
 wa - ter, washed by grace, from sin set free.



Pi - late's guards stand watch-ing, wait - ing where they
 Faith - ful wom - en gath - er spic - es, weep for
 Christ, in whom the new cre - a - tion ris - es
 Je - sus, ris - en, liv - ing, reign - ing now and



rolled the seal-ing stone. All un - seen an - oth - er
 you whom sin has slain. Though they mourn, the God who
 bright - er than the sun: may we, as we watch for
 through e - ter - ni - ty: grant that, through your life un -



watch - es: God will not for - sake his own.
 guards you will not let your death be vain.
 morn - ing, trust the vic - t'ry you have won.
 dy - ing, we may live vic - to - rious - ly.

³¹Now 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. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The 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. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

³⁸Later, 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. ³⁹He 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. ⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At 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. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Silence for meditation

The seventh candle is carried from the chancel.

A loud noise (the 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 then disperse as they desire.

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

The congregation exits in silence.

Acknowledgments

A Service of the Seven Words from the Cross from Christian Worship

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