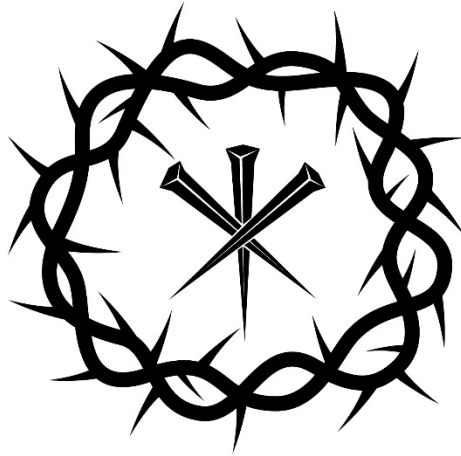




**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
April 3, 2026
7:00 p.m.**



A NOTE ABOUT OUR SERVICE

Tonight's service is a Tenebrae, or service of darkness. This service is a reflection 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 may 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.

Worshippers may gather in silence.

The ministers enter in silence as the seven candles on the altar are lighted.

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.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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.

**¹²Therefore 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.**

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, forever and ever.

Amen.

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.**

Be seated

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.

Silence for meditation.

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.

The first candle is extinguished.

The Lamb

CW 525

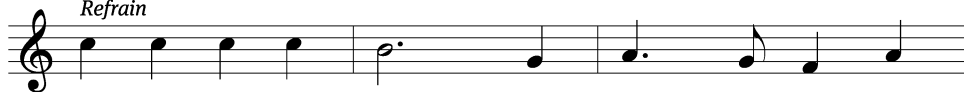


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o -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

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Tune: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Text and tune: © 1987 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932

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.”

Silence for meditation.

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.

The second candle is extinguished.

The Seven Words

CW 436 sts. 1-3



1 Their nails were fresh - ly driv - en, their ha - tred
2 On you, my King, de - pend - ing, I'm rid of
3 A Sav - ior like no oth - er, all self - con -



clear - ly shown, when, "Let them be for - giv - en,"
all my sins! My fi - nal day here end - ing,
cern de - nied, you served your griev - ing moth - er



was heard at heav - en's throne. Your en - e - mies, O
my first in heav'n be - gins. As you have tru - ly
while you were cru - ci - fied. My sin had made me



Je - sus, you loved be - yond de - gree, a love so
spo - ken, in par - a - dise I'll be, with you in
filth - y, but you, the per - fect child, were des - ig -



pure and pre - cious it e - ven par - doned me.
bliss un - bro - ken— you will re - mem - ber me.
nat - ed guilt - y, and I am rec - on - ciled.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1546-1612

Text: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932

Tune: Public domain

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.

Silence for meditation.

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.

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,



cra - ving 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'nings per - fect made: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!
yield - ing up your soul at last: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus!

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836-1896, abr., alt.

Tune: Bernhard Schumacher, 1886-1978

Text: Public domain

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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?”).

Silence for meditation.

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.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

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.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Silence for meditation.

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.

The fifth 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.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, abr., alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Silence for meditation.

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.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

CW 947



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,



ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
your peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Silence for meditation.

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.

The Power of the Cross

CW 423 sts. 1, Ref, 2-4, Final Refrain



1 Oh, to see the dawn of the dark - est day: Christ on the
2 Oh, to see the pain writ - ten on your face, bear - ing the
3 Now the day - light flees; now the ground be - neath quakes as its



road to Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men,
awe - some weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought,
mak - er bows his head. Cur - tain torn in two,



torn and beat - en, then nailed to a cross of wood.
ev - 'ry e - vil deed crown - ing your blood - stained brow.
dead are raised to life; "Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.

Refrain



1-3 This the pow'r of the cross: Christ be-



came sin for us. Took the blame,



bore the wrath; we stand for - giv - en at the cross.

4 Oh, to see my name
 written in the wounds,
for through your suffering I am free.
 Death is crushed to death;
 life is mine to live,
won through your selfless love!
(Final Refrain)

Final Refrain

This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Reading

John 19:31-42

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.

Be seated

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 quietly.

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

Acknowledgments

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

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