



✘ **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** ✘

**The Passion According to Saint John**  
**featuring**  
**The Seven Last Words of Christ**

Saint John Lutheran Church  
Sycamore, Illinois

## **The Tenebrae Service**

*Good Friday is part of the sacred Triduum, the three-day observance of Christ's Passion. The name may originally have been "God's Friday," but it is certainly also "good" because of the good gifts Christ won for us on this day. Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Christ. It is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross. In keeping with this character, music is kept to a minimum, though not silenced. Elaborate words of praise are omitted. The altar remains bare or clothed in black, having been stripped of all furnishings on Holy Thursday. The service of Tenebrae (meaning "darkness") consists of the extinguishing of the church lights. Historically it occurred early in the morning at the Offices of Matins and Lauds on all three days of the Triduum. In recent times, the service has been observed only on the evening of Good Friday.*

*"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."*

*1 Corinthians 1:18*

## **Prayer before Worship**

*O Christ, Lamb of God, slain for the sin of the whole world, with penitent heart I come to Your cross, pleading for mercy and forgiveness. My sins—and they are many—have added to the burden of Your suffering and have nailed You to the accursed tree. For me You tasted the agony of the utter darkness that I might not perish, but have everlasting life. Have mercy upon me.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, embrace me with Your love, and forgive me all my sins. Your death brings healing to my soul, peace to my mind, cleansing to my heart. If You would mark iniquity, I could not come, for my hands are unclean, my lips are sullied, and my heart is blackened by sin. But beholding You bleeding, despised, forsaken, dying, pierced, I come to be cleansed and forgiven.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, grant that I may hate sin and wickedness more and more as I behold You in Your great agony. My grateful heart today finds hope in Your finished work on the cross, by which You have overcome sin, Satan, and death.*

*O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, have mercy. O Lord, hear my prayer. Amen. [Lutheran Book of Prayer, Good Friday, pp. 134-135]*

*\*\*All hymns are sung by the congregation \*\**

## Prelude

### Solo “Were You There”

#### Opening Versicles

*Psalm 51:15; 70:1*

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

#### Opening Collect

- P** 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 on 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.  
**C** Amen.

#### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 52:13—53:12*

*After the reading*

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Hymn “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

*LSB 451 st 1, 3*

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.

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.

## Collect

**P** 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Epistle Reading

*2 Corinthians 5:14-21*

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

*LSB 434 st 1*

1 Lamb of God, pure and holy,  
Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly,  
Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us,  
Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Text: Public domain

## Collect

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross that You might 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.

**C** Amen.

✠ The Passion According to Saint John ✠

Passion Narrative — Part I

*Saint John 18:1-11*



*Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane*

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

*LSB 450 st 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.

Passion Narrative — Part II

*Saint John 18:12-27*



*Jesus before the High Priest*

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

*LSB 450 st 2*

How pale Thou art 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.

**Passion Narrative — Part III**

*Saint John 18:28-40*



*Jesus before Pontius Pilate*

**Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

*LSB 450 st 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 to me Thy grace.

**Passion Narrative — Part IV**

*Saint John 19:1-16a*



*Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion*

**Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

*LSB 450 st 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.



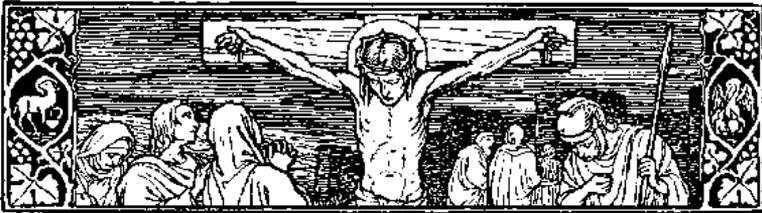
*Jesus' Crucifixion*

**Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"**

*LSB 450 st 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.

**Passion Narrative — Part VI**



*Jesus' Seven Words and Death*

*Following each word, a candle is extinguished and the sanctuary lights are dimmed.*

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

*Saint Luke 23:33-38*

"Woman, behold your son! ... Behold your mother!"

*Saint John 19:23-27*

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

*Saint Luke 23:39-43*

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”  
*Saint Matthew 27:43-47, 49*

“I thirst!”  
*Saint John 19:28-29*

“It is finished!”  
*Saint John 19:30a*

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”  
*Saint Luke 23:46*

## Choir “Our Eyes”

### Sermon

### Responsory

*1 John 2:1-2; Mark 10:33; Psalm 32:1*

- P** We have an advocate with the Father;  
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** **He was delivered up to death;**  
**He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
- P** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven  
and whose sin is put away.
- C** **He was delivered up to death;**  
**He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
- P** We have an advocate with the Father;  
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** **He was delivered up to death;**  
**He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

### Kyrie - Lord, Have Mercy

*Mark 10:47*

- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Christ, have mercy.
- C** **Christ, have mercy.**
- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**C** 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.

**Reproaches**

*(Micah 6:3-4; Jeremiah 2:6-7; Isaiah 5:2-4)*

**P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

**C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death.**

**P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

**C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell.**

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.
- C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith.**

## Salutation and Closing Collect

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.  
We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Hymn "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

*LSB 422*

On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!



*Jesus' Burial*

*The strepitus (loud noise) at the conclusion of this Passion narrative signifies the closing and sealing of Christ's tomb, wherein He took His Sabbath rest after finishing His work of saving the world from sin, death, and hell.*

*As with the service for Maundy Thursday, there is no benediction in this evening's Tenebrae Service. Offerings may be mailed to or dropped off at the church. Those present leave in silence. The extended service of the Triduum (three days) will conclude with our Easter celebration.*

**✘ To God Alone Be The Glory ✘**

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” *Galatians 2:20*