

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service – March 29, 2024**  
**St John Lutheran Church, Crete (Kramer), NE**  
**Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus**

Bells

**Opening Versicles**

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.**

**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

**Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 11**

But you, O Lord, do not be far off!

**O you my help, come quickly to my aid!**

Save me from the mouth of the lion!

**You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!**

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

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

All who see me mock me;

**they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;**

“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;

**let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”**

Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

**and there is none to help.**

But you, O Lord, do not be far off!

**O you my help, come quickly to my aid!**

Save me from the mouth of the lion!

**You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

1<sup>st</sup> candle extinguished

## **Collect**

**Passion reading from St. John's Gospel, chapters 18 and 19**

**John 18:1-11 (Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus)**

2<sup>nd</sup> candle extinguished

**Hymn Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain (LSB 435)**

- 1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.
- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.
- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.
- 4 They that drink shall live forever;  
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never  
Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.

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## **John 18:12-27 (Jesus Before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter)**

3<sup>rd</sup> candle extinguished

## **John 18:28-40 (Jesus Before Pilate)**

### **Hymn In the Cross of Christ I Glory (LSB 427)**

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

*Text: Public domain*

## **John 19:1-16a (Jesus Prepared for Crucifixion)**

4<sup>th</sup> candle extinguished

## **John 19:16b-24 (The Crucifixion of Jesus)**

### **Hymn There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood (TLH 157 *First Tune*)**

- 1 There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.

- 2 The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day;  
And there have I, as vile as he,  
Washed all my sins away.
- 3 Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power  
Till all the ransomed Church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.
- 4 E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die.
- 5 When this poor lisping, stammering tongue  
Lies silent in the grave,  
Then in a nobler, sweeter song  
I'll sing Thy power to save.

*The Lutheran Hymnal, Concordia Publishing House*

## **John 19:25-30 (Jesus' Mother and His Death)**

### **Children's Message**

## **John 19:31-42 (Jesus' Side is Pierced)**

5<sup>th</sup> candle extinguished

### **Hymn Were You There (LSB 456)**

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

- 3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
- 4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?  
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?  
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

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**Sermon** *“The Tree of the Cross” Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us---for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”*

**Canticle Lamb of God, Pure and Holy (LSB 434)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Lamb of God, pure and holy,<br>Who on the cross didst suffer,<br>Ever patient and lowly,<br>Thyself to scorn didst offer.<br>All sins Thou borest for us,<br>Else had despair reigned o’er us:<br>Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O<br>Jesus!  | 2 Lamb of God, pure and holy,<br>Who on the cross didst suffer,<br>Ever patient and lowly,<br>Thyself to scorn didst offer.<br>All sins Thou borest for us,<br>Else had despair reigned o’er us:<br>Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O<br>Jesus! |
| 3 Lamb of God, pure and holy,<br>Who on the cross didst suffer,<br>Ever patient and lowly,<br>Thyself to scorn didst offer.<br>All sins Thou borest for us,<br>Else had despair reigned o’er us:<br>Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus! |  |

*Text: Public domain*

6<sup>th</sup> candle extinguished

## **Prayers**

P: Lord, have mercy.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Christ, have mercy.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: Lord, have mercy.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Collects**

7<sup>th</sup> candle ... removed; *the "strepitus" (a loud noise)*

## **Hymn Go to Dark Gethsemane (LSB 436)**

- 1 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 from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

- 3 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 from Jesus Christ to die.
- 4 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.

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The light/candle returns

### **Silent prayer**

*After the hymn the candle is returned to its place, symbolizing that our redemption is complete, that **the Light of Christ overpowers the darkness, and our salvation is assured, our hope in Christ Jesus is not in vain!***

*This Worship Service began on Holy Thursday and continues toward the Easter Resurrection celebration on Sunday morning. The celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover is called the "Triduum" (pronounced: trij-oo-um).*

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## Service of Tenebrae

To impress upon the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient Church held a special service in the last days of Holy Week, called "Tenebrae". The word means "shadow" or "darkness". The observation of Good Friday should **not** be seen as a funeral for Jesus, but rather a time of repentance over sin and restrained joy in salvation in Jesus, and therefore is also a time of praise. Music is kept to a minimum, but not silenced. The death of Jesus was for the punishment of sin. By His suffering and death we have been forgiven of all sin. He saved us from eternal condemnation. He Who died was raised for us and His resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday and His resurrection underlies every Sunday worship service.

Tenebrae is a ceremonial service of extinguishing in succession the candles in the church. As the candles are extinguished, they symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. They also portray the fading light of the world as Christ was departing from it, reminding us of the events that led to utter darkness on Good Friday.

**Tonight we begin and end in silence.** Toward the end of tonight's service the removal of the seventh candle symbolizes the death of Jesus the Christ. The strepitus (the loud noise [slamming door]) has been seen as symbolic of the soldiers' scourging of Jesus, or the earthquake at Christ's death, or the shutting of the tomb. The return of the candle symbolizes the resurrection and the assurance that Jesus is with us always and that He will return on the Last Day. This candle remains lit to symbolize that even in the midst of death and darkness, the forces of hell shall never prevail against the Light of Christ. There is no invocation or benediction since this is part of the Triduum Service began Maundy Thursday (yesterday) and is completed on Easter.