

My God!
My God!

...why hast thou
forsaken me?

Matthew 27:46

Lamb of God Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Good Friday

Worship Service

April 3, 2026

WE WELCOME you tonight on this most solemn of evenings. Tonight we journey once again to the foot of the Cross. How strange that the path out of the darkness should lead first into the darkness of Good Friday, of our Lord's death for sin. Only this path leads to the light and freedom of Easter. Children are especially welcome at this service – and if they cry, do not worry, for this reminds us of the sorrow of the people at Jesus' Crucifixion, when He said, "Do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." Luke 23:28

NOTES ON THE SERVICE The word "tenebrae" means shadows or darkness. Thus this ancient service of the church is a "service of darkness". Since Good Friday is the most solemn day of the church year this service seeks to reflect that. Rather than follow our normal service format, this service is structured as a series of readings on the crucifixion and death of our Savior Jesus, and its meaning for our lives today.

The service itself contains a great deal of symbolism. During the course of the service candles are slowly extinguished and the church is slowly darkened until no light remains. This reminds us of the darkness that covered the earth in the hours surrounding the death of Jesus. We recall the words of Jesus on the night of His betrayal, "Now is your hour and the hour of the power of darkness." At the conclusion of the service, as the congregation sits in complete darkness, the paschal candle (symbolizing Christ) is removed from the church, then 33 Bells are rung – once for each year of our Savior's life prior to His death. You will then hear a loud noise, to symbolize the sealing of the tomb and the earthquake that followed Christ's death on the cross. The paschal candle is returned to symbolize the death of Jesus and our anticipation of His return in Glory. When a couple of lights are turned on to help you see your way, you are asked to leave the church in complete SILENCE. WE REQUEST THAT NO ONE remain behind to visit following this service but that you immediately return home to contemplate the meaning of your Savior's sacrifice. Our service awaits completion on Easter Morning when we celebrate the glorious victory of the resurrection.

You will notice that there is no benediction at the end of this service. That is because this service will not be completed until we celebrate the victory of Jesus over death on Easter morning. Therefore, as you go about tasks on Saturday you should still consider yourself participating in this service. Take time to think and pray over the sacrifice your Savior gave for you.

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

MEDITATIONS ON CHRIST'S PASSION

April 3, 2026

Please Stand

Invocation

P Holy God, holy and most merciful Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit.

C Have mercy on us and hear us. Amen!

P Holy, most gracious God, we give You thanks for Your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life.

C We come tonight as those who too often wander from Your path.

P Holy, most gracious Lord Jesus, You have promised, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all people to Myself."

C This night, from Your cross, draw us Lord. Draw us close to You. Amen.

Please Be Seated

Choral Reflection "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" G Martin
Chancel Choir

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of glory died
 My richest gain I count but loss
 And pour contempt on all my pride
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 save in the death of Christ my God
 For the things that charm me most
 I sacrifice them to his blood
- 3 See from his hands and his feet
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine
 That were a present far too small
 Love so amazing, so divine
 Demands my soul, my life, my all
 Amen

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A time for silent reflection and prayer.

OVERWHELMED WITH SORROW

The Responsive Reading

- P** He was despised and rejected by men;
- C** A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
- P** And as one from whom men hide their faces
- C** He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

The Passion

John 18:1–11

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please Stand



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

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Please Be Seated

BETRAYED

Responsive Reading

- P** Surely He has borne our griefs
C And carried our sorrows;
P Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
C Smitten by God, and afflicted.

The Passion

John 18:12–27

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people. Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please Stand



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
 her - it, This I do mer - it.

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Please Be Seated

DENIED

Responsive Reading

- P** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
- C** Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- P** But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
- C** Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.

The Passion

John 18:28–40

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please Stand

1 My song is love un-known, My Sav-ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal-va-tion to be-
 3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais-es

me, Love to the love-less shown That they might love-ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would
 sing; Re-sound-ing all the day Ho-san-nas to their

be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in-deed,
 King. Then "Cru-ci-fy!" Is all their breath,

My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for His death They thirst and cry.

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Please Be Seated

INJUSTICE

Responsive Reading

- P** All we like sheep have gone astray;
C We have turned—every one—to His own way;
- P** And the LORD has laid on Him
C The iniquity of us all.
- P** He was oppressed, and He was afflicted,
C Yet He opened not His mouth;
- P** Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
C And like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not his mouth.

The Passion

John 19:1–16a

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

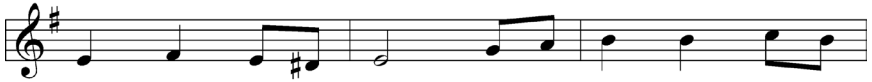
Please Stand



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
 3 Ye who 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 may view 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.

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Please Be Seated

MOKED

Responsive Reading

- P** But I am a worm and not a man,
C Scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- P** All who see me mock me;
C They make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- P** "He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him;
C Let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!"

The Passion

John 19:16b–24

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things.

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please Stand



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
 2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,
 4 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?
 Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,
 Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.
 My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

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Please Be Seated

FORSAKEN

Responsive Reading

- P** By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
C And as for His generation, who considered
P That He was cut off out of the land of the living,
C Stricken for the transgression of my people?

The Passion

John 19:25–30

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Choral Response "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

N Decius
Chancel Choir

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy
Who on the cross did suffer
Ever patient and lowly
Thyself to scorn didst offer
All sins Thou borest for us
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus!

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TORN CURTAIN

Responsive Reading

- P** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief;
C When His soul makes an offering for guilt,
P He shall see his offspring; He shall prolong His days;
C The will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
P Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied;
C By His knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
P Make many to be accounted righteous,
C And He shall bear their iniquities.

The Passion

John 19:31–42

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

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?
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?
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?

Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9–13*) (*spoken in a whisper*)

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.**
-

Removal of the Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is briefly removed, to signify that Christ, the Light of the World, has been slain for our sins.

The 33 Bells

33 Bells are rung – once for each year of our Savior's life prior to His death.

The Strepitus

Latin for "great noise", is made by a loud banging, to symbolize the sealing of the tomb and the earthquake that followed Christ's death on the cross.

Return of the Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is returned to the sanctuary, to symbolize our anticipation of the Light of the World returning in Glory.

A Time for Silent Prayer

When a couple of lights are turned on to help you see your way, you are asked to leave the church in complete SILENCE. WE REQUEST THAT NO ONE remain behind to visit following this service but that you immediately return home to contemplate the meaning of your Savior's sacrifice. Our service awaits completion on Easter Morning when we celebrate the glorious victory of the resurrection.

The Offering

Worshiping God with our Tithes and Offerings

<p>Offering Plate</p>	<p>Mail to the Church Office 1401 Cross Timbers Road Flower Mound TX 75028</p>
<p>Give Online</p> 	<p>Text to Give (972) 440-2316 Instructions</p> 
<p>Attendance Please complete the online Record of Attendance</p> 	

Pastor Rance Settle, *Senior Pastor* | **Pastor Mark Payne**, *Associate Pastor*
Pastor Jae Park, *Associate Pastor* | **Pastor Walt Waiser**, *Pastor Emeritus*
Stephanie Poyner, *Director of Music Ministry*



LAMB
of **GOD**
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and PRESCHOOL

*Loving,
Outreaching,
Growing,
Together in Christ*

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