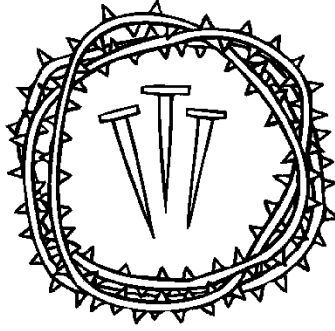




+ Good Friday Tenebrae +  
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

*7:00 pm April 3, 2026*

*The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. It is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the “strepitus”; and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.*



**PRELUDE**

*Chorale Prelude on "Martydom" - C. Hubert H. Parry*

**CALL TO WORSHIP: ISAIAH 53:4-6**

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases,  
**yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.**  
But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;  
**upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.**  
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,  
**and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

**THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL**

**MATTHEW 26:20-30**

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, <sup>21</sup> and while they were eating he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup> He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

HYMN: *GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US*, #358, VERSES 2 AND 4



2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and



cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,



by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -



close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*The first candle is removed.*

## THE SHADOW OF THE AGONY OF SPIRIT AND ARREST

### MATTHEW 26:36-50

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” <sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

### HYMN: *STAY WITH ME*, #348

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Stay With Me". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains the lyrics "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and". The second system contains the lyrics "pray. Watch and pray." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: STAY WITH ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*The second candle is removed.*



*The third candle is removed.*



### THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

#### **MATTHEW 27:11-14, 20-29**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

HYMN: *O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED*, #351

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

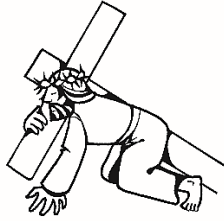
now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite  
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612;  
 arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

*The fourth candle is removed.*



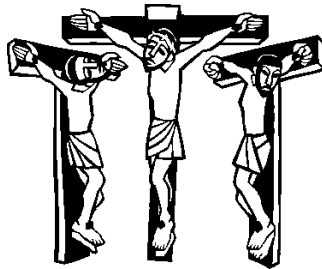
## THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION AND HUMILIATION

### MATTHEW 27:30-44

<sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ” <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.



**HYMN: GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE, VERSE 3, #347**

**Go to Dark Gethsemane**



3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,



mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.



“It is fin-ished!” hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

*The fifth candle is removed.*

## THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Matthew 27:45-54

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

### HYMN: *WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS* (VERSES 1-3), #803

#### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - ve y the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and

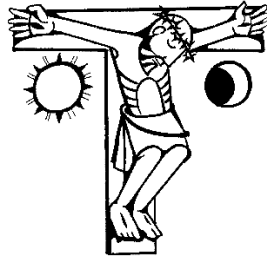


count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

*The Christ Candle is removed.*

*The chimes toll three, the hour at which Jesus died.*



### THE SHADOW OF BURIAL

#### **MATTHEW 27:57-60**

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

#### **STREPITUS**

#### **SOLO RESPONSE: *WERE YOU THERE?***

#### **SILENT MEDITATION**

