

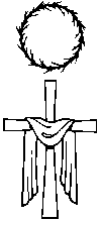
GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 3rd, 2026

Please enter the sanctuary in silence; Meditate upon Scripture;
Pray while listening to the Pre-Service Music; Focus on the Cross

A PERSONAL PREPARATION

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Church year. It is called “good” because of what God did for us through the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. By way of this Tenebrae service, we pause to reflect on that supreme sacrifice offered for our sins.



The Office of Tenebrae is intense in character. It is also highly symbolic, as it demonstrates the great sacrifice of our Savior. The word Tenebrae means “darkness” or “shadows,” and this will be demonstrated in the dramatic flow of the worship.

As the Tenebrae begins candles are extinguished and the church is gradually darkened. The darkness of the sanctuary reminds us of the darkness which covered the earth when Jesus hung on the cross, and moves us to reflect on the darkness of our sins and the great grace of the Father through Jesus Christ. The central candle on the altar is called the Christ-candle. As the Christ-candle is removed from the church, we remember that though Christ died and was buried, on the third day He rose to new and everlasting life. In Christ’s death and resurrection is our hope!

At the conclusion of worship, please leave the sanctuary and church grounds in silence.

THE SILENT PROCESSION

The congregation stands to face the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!

C: The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all!

TIME FOR REFLECTION

OPENING HYMN: “How Deep the Father’s Love” (Screens)

How Deep the Father’s Love Text and Music: Stuart Townsend © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Used by permission: CCLI #488425

INVOCATION PRAYER

A MEDLEY OF HYMNS FOR OUR LORD’S PASSION

“The Old Rugged Cross” (Screens, vs. 1-2)

“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken” (439, stz. 1-2)

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (761, 1-2, Screens)

ISAIAH 53 & 2 CORINTHIANS 5.21 (selected verses, Screens)

L: He was despised and rejected by mankind,

C: a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

L: Like one from whom people hide their faces

C: He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.

L: Surely He took up our pain

C: and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him and afflicted.

L: But He was pierced for our transgressions,

C: He was crushed for our iniquities;

L: the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,

C: and by His wounds we are healed.

L: We all, like sheep, have gone astray,

C: each of us has turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

L: He was oppressed and afflicted,

C: yet He did not open his mouth;

L: He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

C: and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

L: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death,

C: though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

L: Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer,

C: and though the Lord makes His life an offering for sin,

All: God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: Let us affirm our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed and Martin Luther’s explanation of the second article of that ancient creed.

C: I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true!

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen!

GOOD FRIDAY SCRIPTURE READING: John 19.17-30

SERMON HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (425)

SERMON: John 19.17-30

PRINCE OF PEACE BELL CHOIR

What Wondrous Love Is This", arranged by Susan E. Geschke

OFFERING FOR OUR BENEVOLENCE FUND

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

The Introduction

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "Lamb of God" (Screens)

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The First Word

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing!"

Scripture: Luke 23:26-34

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "Were You There?" (456)

Silent Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

The Second Word

"Today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Scripture: Luke 23:34b-45

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "Jesus, Remember Me" (767, sung 6 times, Grace Stevens, Flute)

Silent Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

The Third Word

"Dear woman, here is your son.... Here is your mother."

Scripture: John 19:25-27

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" (447, stz. 1, 3)

PRAYER

C: Savior of the world, innocent Lamb of God, in the midst of Your great agony and torment on the cross Your love and concern reached out in compassion to Your mother. We pray that, as we view Your cross and suffering, we may see in it Your compassion reaching out also to us and to all people. Grant us continued grace, that out of love for You, and by the empowering work of Your Holy Spirit, we may crucify our flesh, no longer serving sin, but walking in newness of life. Hear us, holy Jesus! Amen!

Silent Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

The Fourth Word

"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"

Scripture: Matthew 27:45-49

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (451)

Silent Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

The Fifth Word

"I am thirsty!"

Scripture: John 19:28-29

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "What Wondrous Love Is This" (543)

Silent Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

The Sixth Word
"It is finished!"

Scripture: John 19:30

LORD'S PRAYER

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

All (whisper): Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

Silent Meditation

A candle is extinguished.

The Seventh Word
"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"

Scripture: Luke 23:44-46

Silent Meditation

The Bible is slammed shut, symbolizing that the Word-made-flesh has died

The Earthquake and the Testimony of the Centurion

Scripture: Matthew 27:51-54

Silent Meditation

The Christ Candle is removed from the sanctuary while the congregation meditates in silence and darkness.

The Burial of Jesus
Scripture: John 19:31-34, 38-42

Silent Meditation

THE DISMISSAL

The congregation leaves the sanctuary and church grounds in silence

SONG LYRICS:

"How Deep the Father's Love"

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

“The Old Rugged Cross”

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]

**“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” (LSB 439,
sts. 1–2)**

Stanza 1

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?

Stanza 2

They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge
Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee.

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (sts. 1–2)

Stanza 1

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Stanza 2

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

**“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (LSB 425 – all
verses)**

Stanza 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.

Stanza 2

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

Stanza 3

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Stanza 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

“Lamb of God”

Verse 1

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But you have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Chorus

Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood.
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Verse 2

Your gift of love, they crucified.
They laughed and scorned Him as He died.
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. [Chorus]

Verse 3

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a child of God. [Chorus]

“Were You There” (LSB 456 – all verses)

Stanza 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?

Stanza 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?

Stanza 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?

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?

“Jesus, Remember Me” (LSB 767)

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.
(repeated 6 times)

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (LSB 447, sts. 1 & 3)

Stanza 1

Jesus, in Your dying woes,
Even while Your life-blood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Stanza 3

Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heav’n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” (LSB 451 – all verses)

Stanza 1

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;
By His Son God now has spoken:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Stanza 2

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

Stanza 3

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.

Stanza 4

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,

Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

“What Wondrous Love Is This” (LSB 543 – all verses)

Stanza 1

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

Stanza 2

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

Stanza 3

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

Stanza 4

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.

