

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMHERST, OHIO

Good Friday, April 10, 2020

WELCOME TO THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE OF DARKNESS!

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service, called Tenebrae, in the last days of Holy Week. The word means darkness.

The Tenebrae ceremony is carried out by extinguishing the candles in the "Tenebrae hearse," or sevenfold candle stand, one by one. As the entire church is gradually cast into darkness, the death of Jesus on the cross is symbolized, and we are reminded of the greatness of God's love which led Him to give His Son to die on the cross.

The noise of the closing of the Book near the close of the service symbolizes the closing of Jesus' tomb. The sound is to acknowledge that the meaning of the cross is fulfilled. The penalty of sin has been paid.

One candle remains burning throughout the service. This central candle is called the Christ candle and it symbolizes our Savior. Its removal symbolizes the death of Jesus, and its return signifies His resurrection. Even in the midst of death and darkness the forces of hell did not prevail against the light of Christ. His resurrection is sure! He lives eternally! And we, too, shall live! Let us, then, confidently await dawn of Easter and proclaim its joyful message; Jesus Has Risen From The Dead!

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

PASTOR'S WELCOME

HYMN *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* LSB 425

- 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;
All the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.**

- 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?**

- 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!**

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

O merciful God, You didn't spare Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all, that He might be our sins on the cross: Grant that we today examine ourselves so that we realize that we are completely sinful and rightly deserving of the abandonment that Christ suffered in our place on the cross. Help us to recognize those nails which we drive into His cross today, as we ask You to transform us into faithful disciples, in Jesus, our suffering Savior's name, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

"King of the Jews / Love of God"

by Marty Goetz

THE TENEBRAE SERVICE

(The Service of Darkness now begins. The light will gradually fade away as our Lord's final words from the cross are read. Finally, there will be total darkness, just as darkness covered the earth the day He was crucified.)

THE NAIL OF PRIDE

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at

banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." *Mark 12:38-40*

THE MEDITATION

THE PRAYER

Almighty God, in this hour of solemn remembrance we acknowledge with shame that we have sinned against You in many ways. We know that we have thought more highly of ourselves than we ought, and that our pride has been evident in our haughty spirits. Forgive us of our hypocrisy and help us to learn the lesson of humility, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

Silent Moment of Reflection

SONG

"At The Cross/ Love Ran Red" ccli 7017785

THE NAIL OF BETRAYAL

THE SCRIPTURE READING

While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With Him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on

my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture Me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest Me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

Matthew 26:47-56

THE MEDITATION

THE PRAYER

Gracious God, we are shocked by the betrayal of Judas, and yet we fail to realize the ways in which we deny our Savior, today. We have followed the crowd and have done the will of the majority, without considering whether our decisions were right in Your eyes. Forgive us for failing to stand up for Jesus, as in His Name we pray. Amen.

THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

Silent Moment of Reflection

HYMN

1 *"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"* LSB 451 vss.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.**

**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.**

THE NAIL OF ENVY

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

Matthew 27:15-18

THE MEDITATION

THE PRAYER

Merciful God, we ask You to pardon us for being envious of others: those who succeed where we have failed, those who prosper while we have financial problems, those who have excellent health while we are in pain, those who receive special favors while we are

rejected. Help us to boast of only one thing – that You love us, imperfect though we are. Amen.

THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

Silent Moment of Reflection

SONG

"How Deep the Father's Love" ccli 1558110

THE NAIL OF INDECISION

THE SCRIPTURE READING

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

Matthew 27:20-26

THE MEDITATION

THE PRAYER

Eternal God, we know that we have had lukewarm faith. We have also made the wrong decision by waiting too long to make any

decision, while others made it for us. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to be firm in our faith and to make decisions which are consistent with Your calling on us, to live and love in ways that show Christ Jesus alive within us. In His Name we pray. Amen.

THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

Silent Moment of Reflection

HYMN *"O Dearest Jesus, What Law"* *LSB 439, vss. 1,5*

**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?**

**5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed.**

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THE NAIL OF HATRED

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without

**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.**

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THE NAIL OF CRUELTY

THE SCRIPTURE READING –

Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

THE MEDITATION

THE PRAYER

Almighty God, forgive us the sin of cruelty, as well as the other sins that have driven spiritual nails into the cross of Christ. Accept us as we are, and make us fit for service in Your church and in Your kingdom. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

“The Crucifixion” video – on Martin Luther flash drive (3:04)

THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

ANTHEM

“Were You There”

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS REMOVED.

THE CLOSING OF THE BOOK

THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

THE KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy!

SILENT MEDITATION

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS RETURNED.

A WORD OF HOPE

We do not want you to be uninformed, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*

THE CLOSING PRAYER

P Dear Lord Jesus, You were betrayed, bound, accused, whipped, ridiculed, crucified, damned, dead and buried for us. Thank You. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE