

 **St. Paul**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**& PRE-SCHOOL**

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Church Services: 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Pastor, Paul G. Werner 586-201-3302

Preschool Director, Beth Naro: 440-988-5427

Organist, OZIAH WALES

Readers, Lee Steindl, Bob Steindl

Altar Guild, All Members

Ushers, John Kirschner, John Cartmell

**EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023**

**CELEBRATION SERVICES, 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**

# GOOD FRIDAY

Father, into your hands  
I commend my spirit.

Psalm 31



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Good Friday, April 7, 2023, 7:00 PM

## **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 sanctuary lamp symbolizes the ongoing presence of God, and this remains lighted because we know Jesus remains alive and with us today.

The "streptus" is the loud noise of the closing of the Book near the close of the service and it symbolizes the closing of Jesus' tomb. The sound 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 and burial of Jesus. Yet, even in the midst of death and darkness the forces of hell did not prevail against the light of Christ. His resurrection is sure! We depart in both silence and confidence, knowing that the light of Easter will soon scatter the darkness of Good Friday.

**SEVEN GREATEST WORDS OF LOVE** – This Lenten season we have been meditating on Jesus' final words that He spoke while giving His life for us on the cross. Today we focus on His last word, "*Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit.*" When Jesus reached the point of death, He trusted in God, His Heavenly Father. Because of Jesus' nail printed hands, you can entrust yourself into God's hands in every situation in life and in death.

## **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **Prelude**

### **Silent Procession**

(The bells tolls nine times for the hour of Christ's death on the Cross.)

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

### **Invocation**

### **Confessing the Reason for Jesus' Crucifixion**

**Comfort in the Forgiveness of the Cross  
Nailing of the Cross  
Prayer of the Day**

**Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts to God**

✠ **THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** ✠

**Hymn** “*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*” LSB 440, vs. 1

**Scripture** *John 18:1-11*

**Hymn** “*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*” LSB 451, vs. 1

(THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.)

**Scripture** *John 18:12-17*

**Hymn** “*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*” LSB 451, vs. 2

(THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.)

**Scripture** *John 18:28-40*

**Hymn** “*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*” LSB 451, vs. 3

(THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.)

**Scripture** *John 19:1-16A*

**Anthem** “*Via Dolorossa*” SANDY PATTY

(THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.)

**Scripture** *John 19:1-16B-24*

**Hymn** “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*” LSB 450, vs. 6

(THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.)

**Scripture** *Harmony of Gospels*

**Hymn** “*Upon the Cross Extended*” LSB 453, vss. 1-2

**Sermon** “7 GREATEST WORDS OF LOVE: **“INTO YOUR HANDS”**”

**Hymn** “*Upon the Cross Extended*” LSB 453, vs. 6

(THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.)

**Scripture** *JOHN 19:31-42*

**Hymn** “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*” LSB 450, vs. 7

(THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.)

(The Christ Candle Is Removed.)

**Video** “*The Storm*”

**Strepitus** (The Closing of the Book)

**The Kyrie**

**Lord’s Prayer** WHISPERED BY THE CONGREGATION

(The Christ Candle Is Returned.)

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn** “*Amazing Grace*” LSB 744, vs. 1

*The congregation departs the service in reverent silence,  
anticipating the victory of Easter Day.*