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*Trinity is a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran
Confession (www.clclutheran.org)*



April 3, 2026

Good Friday

Serving Us Today:

Organist: Kathy Conway

Pre-service Meditation

Psalm 22 (pew Bible, p. 539)

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (pew Bible, p. 729)

Pre-Service Prayer

Lord Jesus, I come with all my sin and see You suffer and die for them on the cross. I am sorry for my sins—what I have done and what I have left undone, and those I don't even know. Forgive me. Let me never think of my sin lightly. Keep my eyes focused on You and Your Word and restore to me the joy of my salvation. Amen.

Tenebrae Service

Today's worship service incorporates *The Office of Tenebrae (shadow)*—a Holy Week devotion dating back to the 7th or 8th century A.D. A Tenebrae service is characterized by successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. The service concludes with the removal of the Christ Candle, symbolizing our Lord's death and burial. The *strepitus*—a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb—is heard. At the conclusion of the service, the congregation leaves silently, maintaining the spirit of solemn worship. You may leave the sanctuary whenever you are ready. There will be no ushering out.

Order of Worship

*When the congregation is asked to stand, please do so only if you are able.
You may remain seated if standing is difficult.*

Opening Prayer

Hymn: 725 (1-3) - No Tramp of Soldiers Marching Feet

Invocation

Responsive Reading: *Psalms 22:1-19*

Pastor: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Cong: **Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?**

P: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

C: **and by night, but I find no rest.**

P: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

C: **In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

P: To you they cried and were rescued;

C: **in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

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; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

C: “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

P: Yet you are he who took me from the womb;

C: you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

P: On you was I cast from my birth,

C: and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

P: Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

C: and there is none to help

P: Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

C: they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

P: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

C: my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

P: my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

C: you lay me in the dust of death.

P: For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

C: they have pierced my hands and feet--

P: I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;

C: they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

P: But you, O LORD, do not be far off!

C: O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

Gospel Reading: *Jesus’ words from the cross as recorded throughout the gospel accounts. Each reading is followed by a hymn verse (Tune: TLH 172)*

Luke 23:32-34

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with [Jesus]. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Congregation Sings:

**Their nails were freshly driven, their hatred clearly shown,
when, “Let them be forgiven,” was heard at heaven’s throne.
Your enemies, O Jesus, you loved beyond degree,
a love so pure and precious it even pardoned me.**

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Congregation Sings:

**On you, my King, depending, I’m rid of all my sins!
My final day here ending, my first in heav’n begins.
As you have truly spoken, in paradise I’ll be,
with you in bliss unbroken—you will remember me.**

John 19:25-27

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.

Congregation Sings:

**A Savior like no other, all self-concern denied,
you served your grieving mother while you were crucified.
My sin had made me filthy, but you, the perfect child,
were designated guilty, and I am reconciled.**

Matthew 27:45-46

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Congregation Sings:

**Condemned, cut off, forsaken, outside the Father's care,
by terror overtaken, no ear would hear your prayer.
On you God's wrath was vented, on you his fury fell,
when, on the cross tormented, you took my place in hell.**

John 19:28-29

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.

Congregation Sings:

**My Lord, in death's dark valley, both soul and body drained,
one drink would help you rally what little strength remained
to raise your voice in vict'ry, to sound your foe's defeat—
the highest point in hist'ry—my rescue was complete.**

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished,"

Congregation Sings:

**Though sin's most lethal wages to me, O Christ, were due,
the guilt of all the ages came crashing down on you.
Most surely, "It is finished"—my debt is fully paid;
my joy is undiminished; my heart is unafraid.**

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Congregation Sings:

**My death will be triumphant no matter how I die;
Lord Jesus, in that instant escort my soul on high
into my Father's keeping, all-blameless and all-blest,
like waking up from sleeping, his hands my place of rest.**

Good Friday Meditation

“What Should I Do with Jesus?”

I. Peter

Matthew 26:69-74

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed.

The first candle is extinguished

II. Judas

Matthew 26:14-16

Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

The second candle is extinguished

Hymn: 159(1,2) - Go to Dark Gethsemane

III. Jewish Council

Matthew 26:65-68

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some

slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

The third candle is extinguished

Hymn: 153 -- Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

IV. Pilate

Matthew 27:24

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

The fourth candle is extinguished

Hymn: 143 (1-3) - Ah, Dearest Jesus

V. Herod

Luke 23:8

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.

The fifth candle is extinguished

Hymn: 376(1-3) - Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

VI. Thief

Luke 23:39ff

One of the criminals. . . "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The sixth candle is extinguished

Hymn: 724 - Jesus, Remember Me

VII. Me

Isaiah 53:4-6

*Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

The seventh candle is extinguished

Confession of Sins

Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to You that I have not loved You with all my heart. I have pursued my own way instead of Your way, both in what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You above all things. I have not loved others as Your command. For this I deserve Your judgment and punishment, now and eternally. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I plead for your mercy.

Lord Jesus, the scorn, mocking, and ridicule You bore were because I wander from Your Word. The beating, the stripes, the crucifixion You suffered were because I foolishly put myself in spiritual danger I can't escape. The suffering of Hell itself and being forsaken by Your Father is the justice I deserve, but You endured it because the Father placed my sins on You. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I trust in Your grace.

Oh, Holy Spirit, who dwells within me, I am sorry that I have put myself—your temple—in sin's path. Despite Your work within my heart and Your work to sanctify my life, I let my sinful flesh win

the upper hand. With Scripture, You have revealed the seriousness of my sin and the depth of love that redeems me; and yet, I dismiss sin, fall into it, and stumble. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I ask for Your restoration.

Absolution (Pastor)

Jesus was delivered up for your transgressions and raised for your justification. You have indeed sinned, but God laid your sin upon Jesus, His Son. For the joy of redeeming you and having you as brothers and sisters to live with Him forever, Jesus endured the cross, despised the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. You are forgiven. Go and sin no more.

Hymn: 175 - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Supper

P: Words of Institution...*The peace of the Lord be with you always!*

Congregation (sings): **Amen.**

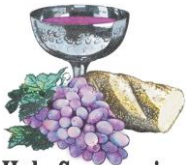
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

Christ teaches us in His Word that He desires unity of faith and confession among those who commune together at the Lord's Table. For this reason, we ask that only those who have confessed their unity with us through communicant membership in our congregation or a sister congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) come to the Lord's

Supper this morning. This scriptural practice we call "close communion" is not a judgment on your faith, but is an expression of our own. Visitors who may wish



Holy Communion

to learn more about communing with us in the future are invited to speak to the pastor at your convenience. We would also like to share this blessing with you.

Pastor: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

Cong: And His mercy endures forever.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Benediction

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:7-9

*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.*

*By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?*

*And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although^[a] he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

Hymn: Were You There? (insert)



The Christ candle leaves the sanctuary representing Jesus' burial.

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:46b

“And [Joseph] rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.”

(The strepitus is heard—signifying the closing of the tomb.)

The congregation leaves the sanctuary in reflective silence.



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Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh...

Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble. trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?