

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 7th, 2023

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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***INTRODUCTION:** Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 7, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Congregational parts are in **bold letters**

*Please stand if **YOU** are able

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

WELCOME AND EXPLANATION OF SERVICE

“Tenebrae” is the Latin word for “shadows.” The Tenebrae service commemorates the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. The gradual extinguishing of the light symbolizes the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus, and the gathering darkness of the Crucifixion. At the close, one candle will remain lit to indicate that death only seems to triumph over Christ, who is the Light of the World.

PRAYER

ALL: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SHADOWS

Jesus casts the last supper with his disciples: Matthew 26:17-29

Pastor Sam Leister

¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹ and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.” ²⁶ 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."²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ 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."

Prayer: Father in heaven, on the night before he died, your son shared the Passover meal with his friends, giving them bread to nourish their spirits and wine, poured out as his blood, for the forgiveness of their sins. We pray that we may turn to him for our strength, and for forgiveness, through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

First Candle Extinguished

HYMN

"What Feast of Love"

#701 Blue Hymnal (vss. 1 & 3)

Jesus is betrayed and arrested: Matthew 26:36-56

Andrea Cameron

³⁶ 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."³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.³⁸ Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."³⁹ 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."⁴⁰ 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?⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴⁷ 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.⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.⁵¹ Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Prayer: Father in heaven, your son, Jesus, prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, seeking to understand what you were asking him to do. Help us to pray, to persevere in discovering the thing you call us to do with our lives. Give us the strength and courage to follow your calling whatever the cost, when we feel alone or betrayed, afraid or helpless. Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Second Candle Extinguished

HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

#109 Green Hymnal (vs. 1)

Jesus appears before Pilate, the Roman Governor: Mark 15:1-15

Kevin Cunningham

¹ As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” ³ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷ Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸ So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹ Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹² Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴ Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Prayer: Father in heaven, when we feel the whole world against us, accounting us of little worth, give us your spirit that we may speak the truth and stay firm in our calling to be like Jesus, whatever the cost. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Third Candle Extinguished

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

#117 Green Hymnal (vs. 1)

Jesus is crucified: Mark 15:16-32

Pastor Sam Leister

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁸And he was counted among the lawless. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Prayer: Father in heaven, we so often stand by, as others are mocked or belittled, as cruelty and injustice are allowed free reign, afraid to speak, afraid to act, silent and guilty. Give us strength to speak out, and to witness always to the right, and to the truth. Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Fourth Candle Extinguished

ANTHEM

"Via Dolorosa"

by Niles Borap

Jesus dies on the cross: Matthew 27:45-54

Kevin Cunningham

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ 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?" ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ 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!"

Prayer: Father in heaven, when we cannot find you, and are not sure that you are there, give us faith. Let us understand that you are always faithful, always present, holding us and sustaining us, even in the darkest moments when all seems hopeless and lost, and death surrounds us. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Fifth Candle Extinguished

HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

#107 Green Hymnal (vss. 1-3)

He was despised and we took no account of him: Isaiah 52:13-15—53:1-5

Andrea Cameron

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— ¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because

of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

¹ Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵ 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.

Prayer: Father in heaven, today we look on Jesus your son, stripped and humiliated, scourged and crowned with thorns, mocked and spat upon, betrayed and led out to be nailed to a tree. Yet this man takes upon himself our sins, our faults, our failings, and gives us new life in his resurrection. Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Sixth Candle Extinguished

HYMN

“Were You There”

#92 Green Hymnal (vss. 1-3)

Jesus is laid in the tomb: Matthew 27:57-66

Pastor Leister

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Seventh Candle Extinguished

HYMN

“O Christ, Thou Lamb of God”

#103 Green Hymnal

Silent Reflection and Dismissal

WELCOME TO ALL!

WITH CHRIST’S LOVE AND GOD’S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah this evening. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!