

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

March 30, 2018



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AS WE GATHER Tonight's service of darkness, also known as "Tenebrae" (a Latin word meaning darkness or shadows), is a Holy Week devotion dating back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. It is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. Today's service is divided into seven parts, each highlighting our Lord being forsaken. The words for tonight's service come from the Psalms, Isaiah, the Gospel of Matthew, and ancient liturgical texts. Near the conclusion of the service, the congregation will recite the Lord's Prayer. Then, after the Good Friday prayer, the Christ candle will be removed, symbolizing our Lord's death and burial. The "strepitus" is heard, a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb. The Christ candle is returned to its place in anticipation of our Lord's resurrection. The offering will be gathered in the entrance to the sanctuary. At the completion of the service, please leave silently, maintaining the spirit of worship befitting this solemn occasion.

(A time of silence for prayer)

OPENING HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

LW 113, Vs. 1-2

***O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded, with thorns, Your only crown.
O sacred head, what glory and bliss did once combine;
Though now despised and gory, I joy to call You mine.***

***How pale You are in anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
Your face, Your eyes now languish, which once were bright as morn.
Now from Your cheeks has vanished their color once so fair;
From loving lips is banished the splendor that was there.***

PART 1: Forsaken by the Betrayer

RESPONSIVE READING (Psalm 55)

Pastor: *Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; Hear me and answer me.*

PEOPLE: **MY THOUGHTS TROUBLE ME AND I AM DISTRAUGHT AT THE VOICE OF THE ENEMY, AT THE STARES OF THE WICKED; FOR THEY BRING DOWN SUFFERING UPON ME AND REVILE ME IN THEIR ANGER.**

Pastor: *My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me.*

PEOPLE: **FEAR AND TREMBLING HAVE BESET ME; HORROR HAS OVERWHELMED ME.**

Pastor: I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest---I would flee far away and stay in the desert;

PEOPLE: I WOULD HURRY TO MY PLACE OF SHELTER, FAR FROM THE TEMPEST AND STORM."

Pastor: If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him.

PEOPLE: BUT IT IS YOU, A MAN LIKE MYSELF, MY COMPANION, MY CLOSE FRIEND, WITH WHOM I ONCE ENJOYED SWEET FELLOWSHIP AS WE WALKED WITH THE THRONG AT THE HOUSE OF GOD.

Pastor: Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the grave, for evil finds lodging among them.

PEOPLE: BUT I CALL TO GOD, AND THE LORD SAVES ME.

Pastor: Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

PEOPLE: CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD AND HE WILL SUSTAIN YOU; HE WILL NEVER LET THE RIGHTEOUS FALL. BUT YOU, O GOD, WILL BRING DOWN THE WICKED INTO THE PIT OF CORRUPTION; BLOODTHIRSTY AND DECEITFUL MEN WILL NOT LIVE OUT HALF THEIR DAYS. BUT AS FOR ME, I TRUST IN YOU.

PASSION READING

Matthew 26:17-25

(Jesus speaks the truth concerning the one who would betray Him.)

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

(The first candle is extinguished.)

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord, You were forsaken by one of Your own disciples, who betrayed You into the hands of sinful men. Never forsake me, O Lord, and send Your Spirit that I, who have betrayed You by my sin, may yet hold fast to You, so that I may not forsake You.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

LW 113, Vs. 3-4

***All this for my transgression, my wayward soul to win;
This torment of Your Passion, to set me free from sin.
I cast my-self before You, Your wrath my rightful lot;
Have mercy, I implore You, O Lord, condemn me not!***

***Here will I stand beside You, Your death for me my plea;
Let all the world deride You, I clasp You close to me.
My awe cannot be spoken, to see You crucified;
But in Your body broken, redeemed, I safely hide!***

PART 2: Forsaken by His Disciples

RESPONSIVE READING (Psalm 31)

Pastor: In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in Your righteousness.

PEOPLE: TURN YOUR EAR TO ME, COME QUICKLY TO MY RESCUE; BE MY ROCK OF REFUGE, A STRONG FORTRESS TO SAVE ME.

Pastor: Since You are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of Your name lead and guide me.

PEOPLE: FREE ME FROM THE TRAP THAT IS SET FOR ME, FOR YOU ARE MY REFUGE.

Pastor: Into Your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.

PEOPLE I HATE THOSE WHO CLING TO WORTHLESS IDOLS; I TRUST IN THE LORD.

Pastor: I will be glad and rejoice in Your love, for You saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

PEOPLE: YOU HAVE NOT HANDED ME OVER TO THE ENEMY BUT HAVE SET MY FEET IN A SPACIOUS PLACE.

Pastor: Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.

PEOPLE: MY LIFE IS CONSUMED BY ANGUISH AND MY YEARS BY GROANING; MY STRENGTH FAILS BECAUSE OF MY AFFLICTION, AND MY BONES GROW WEAK.

Pastor: Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends---those who see me on the street flee from me.

PEOPLE: I AM FORGOTTEN BY THEM AS THOUGH I WERE DEAD; I HAVE BECOME LIKE BROKEN POTTERY.

Pastor: For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life.

PEOPLE: BUT I TRUST IN YOU, O LORD; I SAY, "YOU ARE MY GOD."

Pastor: My times are in Your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

PEOPLE: LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON YOUR SERVANT; SAVE ME IN YOUR UNFAILING LOVE.

Pastor: Let me not be put to shame, O Lord, for I have cried out to You; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave.

PEOPLE: LET THEIR LYING LIPS BE SILENCED, FOR WITH PRIDE AND CONTEMPT THEY SPEAK ARROGANTLY AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS.

Pastor: How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in You.

PEOPLE: IN THE SHELTER OF YOUR PRESENCE YOU HIDE THEM FROM THE INTRIGUES OF MEN; IN YOUR DWELLING YOU KEEP THEM SAFE FROM ACCUSING TONGUES.

Pastor: Praise be to the Lord, for He showed His wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city.

PEOPLE: IN MY ALARM I SAID, "I AM CUT OFF FROM YOUR SIGHT!" YET YOU HEARD MY CRY FOR MERCY WHEN I CALLED TO YOU FOR HELP.

Pastor: Love the Lord, all His saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud He pays back in full.

PEOPLE: BE STRONG AND TAKE HEART, ALL YOU WHO HOPE IN THE LORD.

(Jesus predicts Peter's denial, prays at Gethsemane, and is arrested.)

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

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." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

(The second candle is extinguished.)

Pastor: *Let us pray. Lord, You were forsaken by Your disciples who deserted You and fled. When I am tempted to desert You, send Your Spirit-given gift of faith, that I may hold fast to You, and never forsake You.*

PEOPLE: AMEN.

HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

LW 113, Vs. 5-6

***What language can I borrow to thank You, dearest friend,
For this Your dying sorrow, Your mercy without end!
Bind me to You forever, give courage from above;
Let not my weakness sever Your bond of lasting love.***

***Lord, be my consolation, my constant source of cheer;
Remind me of Your Passion, my shield when death is near.
I look in faith, believing that You have died for me;
Your cross and crown receiving, I live eternally.***

PART 3: Forsaken by His Own People

RESPONSIVE READING (Psalm 4)

Pastor: *Answer me when I call to You, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.*

PEOPLE: HOW LONG, O MEN, WILL YOU TURN MY GLORY INTO SHAME? HOW LONG WILL YOU LOVE DELUSIONS AND SEEK FALSE GODS?

Pastor: *Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord will hear when I call to Him.*

PEOPLE: IN YOUR ANGER DO NOT SIN; WHEN YOU ARE ON YOUR BEDS, SEARCH YOUR HEARTS AND BE SILENT.

Pastor: *Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord.*

PEOPLE: MANY ARE ASKING, "WHO CAN SHOW US ANY GOOD?" LET THE LIGHT OF YOUR FACE SHINE UPON US, O LORD.

Pastor: *You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound.*

PEOPLE: I WILL LIE DOWN AND SLEEP IN PEACE, FOR YOU ALONE, O LORD, MAKE ME DWELL IN SAFETY.

(The chief priests bring false accusations against Christ.)

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." 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.)

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord, Your own people declared You guilty of blasphemy and sought Your death. When we are tempted to take Your name in vain, send us Your Spirit, that we may resist temptation, and ever hold fast to You.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LW 116, Vs. 1-2

***Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree!
This is Christ, by man rejected; here, my soul, your Savior see.
He's the long expected prophet, David's son, yet David's Lord.
Proofs I see sufficient of it; He's the true and faithful Word.***

***Tell me, all who hear him groaning, Was there ever grief like this?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that justice gave.***

PART 4: Forsaken by Peter

RESPONSIVE READING (*The Reproaches*)

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

PEOPLE: HOLY LORD GOD, HOLY AND MIGHTY GOD, HOLY AND MOST MERCIFUL REDEEMER; GOD ETERNAL, LEAVE US NOT TO BITTER DEATH. O LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

PEOPLE: HOLY LORD GOD, HOLY AND MIGHTY GOD, HOLY AND MOST MERCIFUL REDEEMER; GOD ETERNAL, ALLOW US NOT TO LOSE HOPE IN THE FACE OF DEATH AND HELL. O LORD, HAVE MERCY.

People: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could I have done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

PEOPLE: HOLY GOD, HOLY AND MIGHTY GOD, HOLY AND MOST MERCIFUL REDEEMER; GOD ETERNAL, KEEP US STEADFAST IN THE TRUE FAITH. O LORD, HAVE MERCY.

PASSION READING

Matthew 26:69-75

(In the face of seemingly relentless interrogation, Peter vehemently denies knowing Christ.)

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. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord, You were denied even by Your own faithful disciple, Peter. When we deny You by our sinful actions, restore us in Your forgiving love, and never forsake we who so often forsake You.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LW 116, Vs. 3-4

***You who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, Here it's guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load;
It's the Word, the Lord's Appointed, Son of Man and Son of God.***

***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.***

PART 5: Forsaken by Pilate

RESPONSIVE READING (Psalm 17)

Pastor: Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea; listen to my cry. Give ear to my prayer---it does not rise from deceitful lips.

PEOPLE: MAY MY VINDICATION COME FROM YOU; MAY YOUR EYES SEE WHAT IS RIGHT.

Pastor: Though You probe my heart and examine me at night, though You test me, You will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.

PEOPLE: AS FOR THE DEEDS OF MEN---BY THE WORD OF YOUR LIPS I HAVE KEPT MYSELF FROM THE WAYS OF THE VIOLENT.

Pastor: My steps have held to Your paths; my feet have not slipped.

PEOPLE: I CALL ON YOU, O GOD, FOR YOU WILL ANSWER ME; GIVE EAR TO ME AND HEAR MY PRAYER.

Pastor: Show the wonder of Your great love, You who save by Your right hand those who take refuge in You from their foes.

PEOPLE: KEEP ME AS THE APPLE OF YOUR EYE; HIDE ME IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS

Pastor: From the wicked who assail me and my mortal enemies who surround me,

PEOPLE: THEY CLOSE UP THEIR CALLOUS HEARTS, AND THEIR MOUTHS SPEAK WITH ARROGANCE.

Pastor: They have tracked me down, they now surround me, with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

PEOPLE: THEY ARE LIKE A LION HUNGRY FOR PREY, LIKE A GREAT LION CROUCHING IN COVER.

Pastor: Rise up, O Lord, confront them, bring them down; rescue me from the wicked by Your sword.

PEOPLE: O LORD, BY YOUR HAND SAVE ME FROM SUCH MEN, FROM MEN OF THIS WORLD WHOSE REWARD IS IN THIS LIFE. YOU STILL THE HUNGER OF THOSE YOU CHERISH; THEIR SONS HAVE PLENTY, AND THEY STORE UP WEALTH FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

Pastor: And I, in righteousness, will see Your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing Your likeness.

PASSION READING

Matthew 27:11-26

(Jesus is subjected to the injustice of the governing authorities.)

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

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." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord, even the secular power of this world recognized Your innocence, but forsook You to death anyway. May we ever hold fast to You, Lord, even in the face of pressure from within and without, that we may not desert You.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

HYMN

Jesus in Your Dying Woes

LW 112, Vs. 1-3

***Jesus, in Your dying woes, even while Your life-blood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes; Hear us, holy Jesus.***

***Savior, for our pardon sue when our sins Your pangs renew,
For we know not what we do; Hear us, holy Jesus.***

***Oh, may we, who mercy need, be like You in heart and deed,
When with wrong our spirits bleed: Hear us, holy Jesus.***

PART 6: Forsaken at the Cross

RESPONSIVE READING (*Isaiah 53*)

Pastor: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

PEOPLE: SURELY HE HAS BORNE OUR GRIEFS AND CARRIED OUR SORROWS, YET WE CONSIDERED HIM STRICKEN BY GOD, SMITTEN BY HIM AND AFFLICTED.

Pastor: 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.

PEOPLE: WE ALL, LIKE SHEEP, HAVE GONE ASTRAY, EACH OF US HAS TURNED TO HIS OWN WAY, AND THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.

Pastor: He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

PEOPLE: BY OPPRESSION AND JUDGMENT HE WAS TAKEN AWAY. HE WAS CUT OFF FROM THE LAND OF THE LIVING; FOR THE TRANSGRESSION OF MY PEOPLE HE WAS STRICKEN.

Pastor: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

PEOPLE: AFTER THE SUFFERING OF HIS SOUL, HE WILL SEE THE LIGHT OF LIFE AND BE SATISFIED.

Pastor: By His knowledge my righteous Servant will justify many and He will bear their iniquities.

PEOPLE: THEREFORE I WILL GIVE HIM A PORTION AMONG THE GREAT, BECAUSE HE Poured OUT HIS LIFE UNTO DEATH, AND WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS. FOR HE BORE THE SIN OF MANY, AND MADE INTERCESSION FOR THE TRANSGRESSORS.

(Soldiers repeatedly shame and abuse Christ.)

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

Pastor: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, on the cross You were taunted by those who crucified You, by those who stood by and watched, by those crucified with You. The world still taunts You and forsakes You; by Your Spirit, let me look on Your cross and find strength to witness boldly in Your name.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

HYMN

Jesus in Your Dying Woes

LW 112, Vs. 19-21

***Jesus, all Your labor vast, all Your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.***

***When the death shades round us low'r, guard us from tempter's pow'r,
Keep us in that trial hour: Hear us, holy Jesus.***

***May your life and death supply grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us holy Jesus.***

PART 7: Forsaken by God

PASSION READING

Matthew 27:45-54

(The infinite Christ confronts finite death.)

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?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

(The seventh candle is extinguished, and the Christ candle is removed.)

RESPONSIVE READING

(Psalms 22 and 69)

Pastor: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, so far from the Words of My groaning? O My God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, by night, and am not silent. Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel.

PEOPLE: SAVE ME, O GOD, FOR THE WATERS HAVE COME UP TO MY NECK. I SINK IN THE MIRY DEPTHS, WHERE THERE IS NO FOOTHOLD. I HAVE COME INTO THE DEEP WATERS; THE FLOODS ENGULF ME.

Pastor: I am worn out calling for help; My throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for My God. Those who hate Me without reason outnumber the hairs of My head; many are My enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy Me.

PEOPLE: I AM FORCED TO RESTORE WHAT I DID NOT STEAL. YOU KNOW MY FOLLY, O GOD; MY GUILT IS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU. MAY THOSE WHO HOPE IN YOU NOT BE DISGRACED BECAUSE OF ME, O LORD, THE LORD ALMIGHTY; MAY THOSE WHO SEEK YOU NOT BE PUT TO SHAME BECAUSE OF ME, O GOD OF ISRAEL.

Pastor: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all.

PEOPLE: CHRIST BECAME OBEDIENT FOR US UNTO DEATH.

Pastor: Even death on the cross!

LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD; AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US; AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

COLLECT

Pastor: Almighty God, we ask You to look with mercy upon 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 "Strepitus" is heard.]

HYMN

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord LW 505, Vs. 1-3

***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?***

***Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to tree? Oh!
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?***

***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?***

*(You are asked to leave in silence as the lights are brought up,
anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of
Good Friday.)*



**EASTER SERVICES
ON APRIL 1 AT 7:00 AM AND 10:00 AM
BREAKFAST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 7:00 AM SERVICE
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**