

TENEBRAE
GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3, 2026, 7:00 PM

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

Tonight's service of darkness, also known as **Tenebrae** (the name means "darkness" or "shadows"), is a Holy Week devotion that dates back to the seventh century A.D.; and is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses.

Near the conclusion of the worship service, the congregation will speak the Lord's Prayer. Then, after the Good Friday prayer, the Christ Candle will be extinguished, symbolizing our Lord's death and burial. Then the strepitus is heard, a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb.

◆ **INVOCATION**

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ISAIAH 52:13-53:12

(The Song of the Suffering Servant)

See, My Servant will act wisely; He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at Him -- His Appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and His Form marred beyond human likeness-- so will He sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of Him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. Who has believed our message and to whom has the Arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His Appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. 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. 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. He was oppressed and 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. By oppression and judgment He was taken away. And who can speak of His descendants? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was stricken. 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. Yet it was the LORD's Will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the LORD makes His Life a guilt offering, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the Will of the LORD will prosper in His Hand. After the suffering of His Soul, He will see the light [of Life] and be satisfied; by His Knowledge My Righteous Servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, 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.

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have poured out upon us Your Never-Ending Love by giving Your Son, Jesus Christ unto death on the cross.

C **Give us grace to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Strengthen the ministry of Your holy Church; that we, Your people, may confess the dying love of Christ to all people. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

HOMILY

THE WORDS FROM THE CROSS

T THE FIRST WORD T

John 19:14-16; Luke 23:32-34a

It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "*Here is your king,*" Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "*Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!*" "*Shall I crucify your king?*" Pilate asked. "*We have no king but Caesar,*" the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said,

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You;

C **by Your Cross and Precious Death, You have redeemed the world.**

P God forbid that I should glory

C **Except in the Cross of our Lord, Jesus.**

P Almighty God, Your Dear Son, our Lord, did not go up to joy before He first suffered pain; He did not enter into glory before He was crucified. Mercifully grant that we in faith may walk the way of His Cross and find in It the way to Life and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(The first candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSE

JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

LSB 447 ST 1-3

T THE SECOND WORD T

Luke 23:35-43

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, "*He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.*" The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, "*If You are the king of the Jews, save Yourself.*" There was a written notice above Him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: "*Aren't You the Christ? Save Yourself and us!*" But the other criminal rebuked him. "*Don't you fear God,*" he said, "*since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.*" Then he said, "*Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.*" Jesus answered him,

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise."

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You;
C **by Your Cross and Precious Death, You have redeemed the world.**

P Surely, He has borne our griefs
C **and carried our sorrows.**

P Lord Jesus, while You hung on the cross, You showed mercy to the dying thief. With that mercy look on us also, we pray; and at our last hour, comfort us with Your Promise that we will dwell forever in Paradise with You.
C **Amen.**

(The second candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSE

JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

LSB 447 ST 4-6

T THE THIRD WORD T

John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, He said to His mother,

"Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, ***"Here is your mother."***
From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You;
C **by Your Cross and Precious Death, You have redeemed the world.**

P Bind us to each other with bonds of charity and love
C **that we may ever reflect the great and sacrificial love that You have showed to us through Your Suffering, Pain and Death on the cross.**

P O God, You know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always stand upright; grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

(The third candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSE

JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

LSB 447 ST 7-9

T THE FOURTH WORD T

Matthew 27:45-47

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means,
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, *"He's calling Elijah."*

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You;
C **by Your Cross and Precious Death, You have redeemed the world.**

P Keep us mindful of Your Abiding Presence with us
C **that our witness to the Love You have shown us may never falter or fail.**

P Grant, we pray, Merciful Lord, to Your faithful people, pardon and peace; cleanse us from all our sins, so that we may serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSE

JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

LSB 447 ST 10-12

T THE FIFTH WORD T

Matthew 10:38-42; John 19:28-29

[Jesus said to His disciples,] *"anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the One who sent Me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the*

truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said,

"I am thirsty."

A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You;

C **by Your Cross and Precious Death, You have redeemed the world.**

P Grant us peace and patience under all trials;

C **keep us mindful of the great sacrifice You willingly made for us, to pay the price for our sins.**

P O God, for our redemption, You gave Your Only Son to die the death of the cross; and, by His Resurrection, You have delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with Him in the joy of His Resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSE

JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

LSB 447 St 13-15

T THE SIXTH WORD T

Hebrews 9:11-12, 15, 27-28; John 19:30a

When Christ came as High Priest of the good things that are already here, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own Blood, having obtained eternal redemption. For this reason Christ is the Mediator of a New Covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance— now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. When He had received the drink, Jesus said,

"It is finished."

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You;

C **by Your Cross and Precious Death, You have redeemed the world.**

P May we begin all of our works of charity and love in Your Name;

C **and may we find Your blessing in their completion to Your Glory.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, You set the boundaries of our lives and grant us tasks to do in

Your Name. In Your Great Love, You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father. With the Aid of the Holy Spirit, lead us to complete all You intend for us to do in this world until that time when we share Your Eternal Presence in the world to come.

C Amen.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

RESPONSE

JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

LSB 447 ST 16-18

T THE SEVENTH WORD T

Luke 23:44-46; Matthew 27:54

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice,

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

When he had said this, he breathed his last.

(Pause for silent meditation)

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened; they were terrified, and exclaimed, "*Surely He was the Son of God!*"

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You;

C **by Your Cross and Precious Death, You have redeemed the world.**

P Preserve and defend us, Gracious Lord

C **so that, when our last hour comes, we may know Your Abiding Care.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your Life on the cross in our place, You commended Your Spirit into the Loving Hands of Your Heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things. When our last hour comes, grant us peace; that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the Hands of our Heavenly Father.

C **Amen**

RESPONSE

JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

LSB 447 ST 19-21

.❖ LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken softly)*

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.

❖ **CLOSING PRAYER**

P 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. Forgive us for Jesus' sake.

C **Amen.**

(The Christ Candle is removed.)
(The strepitus is heard.)
(Worshippers are asked to leave in silence.)