

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (LCMS)

Est. 1864



Pastors:

Matthew V. Moss      and      Matthew P. Johnson  
763-496-5350                              763-772-7315  
pastor.moss@stjlutheran.org      pastor.johnson@stjlutheran.org

9141 County Road 101  
Corcoran, MN 55340

# † Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers †

April 2, 2021

**Preacher:** Pr. Matthew Johnson

**Liturgist:** Pr. Matthew Moss

**Kantor:** Dr. Crystal Rossow

*The service tonight is taken from an early Christian service called Tenebrae. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." During the service candles are extinguished until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. As it gets darker and darker we reflect on the darkness of God's judgment that enveloped our Lord on the cross. At the conclusion of the service, the final candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. Following a brief silence there is a loud noise symbolizing the earthquake at the time of his death (Matthew 27:51-53).*

*Stand*

## Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

## The Psalms of Israel

*following each Psalm a candle is extinguished*

Psalm 22; sung responsively, antiphon: v. 19



- <sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?\*
- Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?
- <sup>2</sup>**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,\***  
**and by night, but I | find no rest.**
- <sup>3</sup>Yet you are | holy,\*  
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- <sup>4</sup>**In you our fathers | trusted,\***  
**they trusted, and you de- | livered them.**
- <sup>5</sup>To you they cried and were | rescued;\*
- in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup>**But I am a worm and | not a man,\***  
**scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.**
- <sup>7</sup>All who see me | mock me;\*
- they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;
- <sup>8</sup>**“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him,\***  
**let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”**
- <sup>9</sup>Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;\*
- you made me trust you at my | mother’s breasts.
- <sup>10</sup>**On you was I cast | from my birth,\***  
**and from my mother’s womb you have | been my God.**
- <sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble | is near,\*  
and there is | none to help.
- <sup>12</sup>**Many bulls en- | compass me;\***  
**strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;**
- <sup>13</sup>they open wide their | mouths at me,\*  
like a ravening and roaring | lion.
- <sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water, and all my bones are | out of joint;\***  
**my heart is like wax; it is melted with- | in my breast;**

<sup>15</sup>my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks | to my jaws;\*  
you lay me in the | dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>**For dogs en- | compass me;\***  
**a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my | hands and feet—**

<sup>17</sup>I can count | all my bones—\*  
they stare and gloat | over me;

<sup>18</sup>**they divide my garments a- | mong them,\***  
**and for my clothing they | cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!\*  
O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver my soul | from the sword,\***  
**my precious life from the power | of the dog!**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the mouth of the | lion!\*  
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

<sup>22</sup>**I will tell of your name to my | brothers;\***  
**in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you:**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him,\*  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!

<sup>24</sup>**For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,**  
**and he has not hidden his | face from him,\***  
**but has heard, when he | cried to him.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation;\*  
my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.

<sup>26</sup>**The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall | praise the LORD!\***  
**May your hearts live for- | ever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,\*  
and all the families of the nations shall worship be- | fore you.

<sup>28</sup>**For kingship belongs | to the LORD,\***  
**and he rules over the | nations.**

<sup>29</sup>All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;\*  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
even the one who could not keep him- | self alive.

<sup>30</sup>**Posterity shall | serve him;\***  
**it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;**

<sup>31</sup>they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn,\*  
that he has | done it.

**Hymn: Lamb of God, Pure and Holy**

**LSB 434**

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Tune and text: Public domain

**Psalm 2; sung responsively, antiphon vss. 6 & 11**



<sup>1</sup>Why do the | nations rage\*  
and the peoples | plot in vain?  
<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,\*  
against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying,  
<sup>3</sup>“Let us burst their | bonds apart\*  
and cast away their | cords from us.”  
<sup>4</sup>He who sits in the | heavens laughs;\*  
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.  
<sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,\*  
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,  
<sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have | set my King\*  
on Zion, my | holy hill.”  
<sup>7</sup>I will tell of | the decree:\*  
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.  
<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,\*  
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.  
<sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a | rod of iron\*  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”  
<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;\*  
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.  
<sup>11</sup>Serve the | LORD with fear,\*  
and rejoice with | trembling.  
<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly | kindled.\*  
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

**Hymn: Lamb of God, Pure and Holy**

**LSB 434**

2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
Ev - er pa-tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had de-spair reigned o'er us:  
Have mer-cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Tune and text: Public domain

**Psalm 27; sung responsively, antiphon vv. 9 & 14**



<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?\*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to eat | up my flesh,\*

my adversaries and foes, it is they who stum- | ble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart | shall not fear;\*  
though war arise against me, yet I will be | confident.

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:.\*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his | temple.

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;\*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;\*

I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud;\*

be gracious to me and | answer me!

<sup>8</sup>You have said, | “Seek my face.”\*

My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, | do I seek.”

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in | anger;\*

O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my sal- | vation!

<sup>10</sup>For my father and my mother have for- | saken me,\*

but the LORD will | take me in.

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, | O LORD,\*

and lead me on a level path because of my | enemies.

<sup>12</sup>Give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;\*

for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out | violence.

<sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD\*

in the land of the | living!

<sup>14</sup>Wait | for the LORD;\*

be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait | for the LORD!

**Hymn: Lamb of God, Pure and Holy**

**LSB 434**



3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Tune and text: Public domain



## The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

### Hymn: 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 1-3



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weigh-ed down,  
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!  
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer-ed Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
How doth Thy face now lan - guish That once was bright as morn!  
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;  
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.  
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003065  
Tune: Public domain

### **P** The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." <sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

<sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." <sup>13</sup>So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" <sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Hymn: 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 4-7



4 My Shep - herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard - ian, own me Thine.  
 5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,  
 6 My Sav - ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;  
 7 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.  
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?  
 Then let Thy pres - ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!  
 Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;  
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,  
 When soul and bod - y lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone,  
 Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.  
 But take a - way mine an - guish By vir - tue of Thine own!  
 My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003065  
 Tune: Public domain

Stand

So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

<sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, <sup>24</sup>so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup>but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup>So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup>He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup>After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. <sup>40</sup>So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup>So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.



**C** 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.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The final candle is extinguished.*

*Following a loud noise, a single candle is brought back into the sanctuary symbolizing the victory of life over death.*

*The congregation leaves in silence and minimal light. Offerings may be left at the door as you leave.*

**Preacher:** Rev. Matthew P. Johnson

**Liturgist:** Rev. Matthew V. Moss

**Kantor:** Dr. Crystal Rossow

## † Schedule of Services †

**Holy Saturday:** 7:00 pm — Easter Vigil – Live Stream Available

**Easter Sunday:** 6:00 am — Easter Sunrise – Live Stream Available

### Acknowledgments

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.