

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

Est. 1864



Pastors:

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† Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers †

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



- ¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?*
- Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?
- ²**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,***
and by night, but I | find no rest.
- ³Yet you are | holy,*
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- ⁴**In you our fathers | trusted,***
they trusted, and you de- | livered them.
- ⁵To you they cried and were | rescued;*
in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶**But I am a worm and | not a man,***
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
- ⁷All who see me | mock me;*
they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;
- ⁸**“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him,***
let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”
- ⁹Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;*
you made me trust you at my | mother’s breasts.
- ¹⁰**On you was I cast | from my birth,***
and from my mother’s womb you have | been my God.
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble | is near,*
and there is | none to help.
- ¹²**Many bulls en- | compass me,***
strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;
- ¹³they open wide their | mouths at me,*
like a ravening and roaring | lion.
- ¹⁴**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;
- ¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks | to my jaws;*
you lay me in the | dust of death.
- ¹⁶**For dogs en- | compass me,***
a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my | hands and feet—
- ¹⁷I can count | all my bones—*
they stare and gloat | over me;

18they divide my garments a- | mong them,*
and for my clothing they | cast lots.

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

20Deliver my soul | from the sword,*
my precious life from the power | of the dog!

21Save me from the mouth of the | lion!*
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

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

23You 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!

24For 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.

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

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

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

28For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*
and he rules over the | nations.

29All 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.

30Posterity shall | serve him;*
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;

31they 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!

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



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

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



¹The 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?

²When evildoers assail me to eat | up my flesh,*

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

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

⁴One 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.

⁵For 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.

⁶And 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.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud;*

be gracious to me and | answer me!

⁸You have said, | “Seek my face.”*

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

⁹Hide 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!

¹⁰For my father and my mother have for- | saken me,*

but the LORD will | take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, | O LORD,*

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

¹²Give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;*

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

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD*

in the land of the | living!

¹⁴Wait | 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!

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Psalm 51; sung responsively, antiphon v. 2



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.
- ²**Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,***
and cleanse me | from my sin!
- ³For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
- ⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,***
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.
- ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- ⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,***
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and | gladness;***
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, | O God,***
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,***
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.
- ¹⁴**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my sal- | vation,***
and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, open | my lips,*
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would | give it,***
you will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.
- ¹⁸**Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure;***
build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;
- ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings;*
then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

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.

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

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate 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." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When 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." ⁷The 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." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So 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?" ¹¹Jesus 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."

¹²From 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." ¹³So 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. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They 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." ¹⁶So 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.

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Stand

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many 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. ²¹So 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.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When 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, ²⁴so 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, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

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

³¹Since 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. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

³⁸After 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. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now 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. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A candle is extinguished.

Responsory



L 1 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
2 Blessed is he whose
transgression is for - giv - en and whose sin is put a - way.
3 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.



C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered
for the sins of the peo-ple.

Sit

Office Hymn: 448 O Darkest Woe



1 O dark - est woe! Ye tears, forth flow! Has
2 O sor - row dread! Our God is dead, Up -
3 O child of woe: Who struck the blow That
4 Thy Bride - groom dead! God's Lamb has bled Up -



earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's
on the cross ex - tend - ed. There His love en -
killed our gra - cious Mas - ter? "It was I," thy
on thy sin for - ev - er, Pour - ing out His



on - ly Son Now is bur - ied yon - der.
liv - ened us As His life was end - ed.
con - science cries, "I have wrought dis - as - ter!"
sin - less self In this vast en - deav - or.

5 Such innocence!
His countenance
A fount of faith undying!
Worlds on worlds cannot contain
Grief at Him here lying.

6 O Virgin's Son,
What Thou hast won
Is far beyond all telling:
How our God, detested, died,
Hell and devil felling.

7 O Jesus Christ,
Who sacrificed
Thy life for lifeless mortals:
Be my life in death and bring
Me to heaven's portals!

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Sermon

"It Is Finished"

Stand

Canticle: *Jesus, in Your Dying Woes*

LSB 447, stanzas 19-21



19 Je - sus, all Your la - bor vast, All Your woe and
20 When the death shades round us low'r, Guard us from the
21 May Your life and death sup - ply Grace to live and



con - flict past, Yield - ing up Your soul at last:
tempt - er's pow'r, Keep us in that tri - al hour:
grace to die, Grace to reach the home on high:



Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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A candle is extinguished.

The Prayers of the Church

P Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Christ, have mercy.

C Christ, have mercy.

P Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

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 V. Moss
Liturgist: Rev. Matthew P. Johnson
Kantor: Dr. Crystal Rossow

† **Schedule of Services** †

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

Easter Sunday: 6:00 am — *Easter Sunrise (completion of the Vigil Service) – Live Stream on Website*
(7:00 am-9:30 am — *Easter Breakfast in the Christian Households*)
9:30 am — *Service of the Word – Live Stream on Website*

Acknowledgments

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book
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