



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 14, 2017

Silence for Pondering Our Lord's Passion

Bell Toll

Opening Hymn Christian Worship 122:1-3, "*Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle*"

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay.
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer, As a victim won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness Of th' appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us his Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.

Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did his work and met his death;
Like a lamb he humbly yielded On the cross his dying breath.

Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness". The Tenebrae Service follows an ancient church custom in which lights are extinguished one by one as the service proceeds. The service begins and ends in quietness and semi-darkness. Our attention is drawn to the events of Good Friday by means of a series of meditations on the seven words Jesus spoke from the cross. The silence, the solemnity of the occasion, the darkness of the service setting and the meditations bring to heart and mind by Word and symbol the sober and serious closing hours of the Passion, Christ's innocent sufferings and death on our behalf. Come, let us contemplate the extinguishing of our Savior's life on the cross.

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (speaks) **Amen.**

The Responsive Reading from Psalm 22

Pastor/Congregation

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.** But I am a worm and not a man, **scorned by men and despised by the people.** All who see me mock me; **they hurl insults, shaking their heads:** “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. **Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.**” From birth I was cast upon you; **from my mother’s womb you have been my God.** Do not be far from me, **for trouble is near and there is no one to help.** Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. **Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. **My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; **you lay me in the dust of death.** Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, **they have pierced my hands and my feet.** I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. **They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.** But you, O LORD, be not far off; **O my Strength, come quickly to help me.**

Hymn Christian Worship 122: 4-5, “*Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle*”

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit your equal be,
Symbol of the world’s redemption, For your burden makes us free.

Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To th’ eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done –
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.

The Seven Words from the Cross

I. The Word of Forgiveness

*“Father, forgive them,
for they do not know what they are doing.”*
(Luke 23:34)

Hymn Christian Worship 127, “*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*”

All Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis he ‘tis he.
‘Tis the long expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.

Women Tell me, as you hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?
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.

Men If you think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; see who bears the awful load –
‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

All Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;
Christ’s 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.

II. The Word of Assurance

*“I tell you the truth,
Today you will be with me in Paradise.”*
(Luke 23:43)

Hymn Christian Worship 112:1-3, 5, “*There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood*”

There is a fountain filled with blood Immanuel was slain
And sinners who are washed therein
Lose ev’ry guilty stain, Lose ev’ry guilty stain.

The dying thief rejoiced to see That Fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away, Washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood Shall never lose its pow’r
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved and sin no more, Be saved and sin no more.

When this poor lispings, stamm’ring tongue Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I’ll sing your pow’r to save, I’ll sing your pow’r to save.

III. The Word of Concern
*“Woman, behold your son;
Behold your mother.”*
(John 19:26-27)

Hymn The Lutheran Hymnal 182, *“Jesus, Loving to the End”*

Jesus, loving to the end Her whose heart Thy sorrows rend,
And thy dearest human friend Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May we in Thy sorrow share, For Thy sake all peril dare,
And enjoy Thy tender care: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May we all Thy loved ones be, All one holy family,
Loving for the love of Thee Hear us, Holy Jesus.

IV. The Word of Desolation
*“My God, My God,
Why have you forsaken me?”*
(Mark 15:33-34)

Hymn Christian Worship 113:1-4, *“Upon the Cross Extended”*

All Upon the cross extended; See, world, your Lord suspended;
Your Savior yields his breath. The Prince of life from heaven
Himself has freely given To shame and blows and bitter death.

Men How God at our transgression To anger gives expression,
How loud his thunders roll, How fearfully he smites him,
How sorely he requites him — All this your suff’rings teach my soul.

Women ‘Tis I who should be smitten, My doom should here be written
Bound hand and foot in hell. The fetters and the scourging,
The floods around you surging, ‘Tis I who have deserved them well.

All A crown of thorns you’re wearing, My shame and scorn you’re bearing
That I might ransomed be. My bonds-man, ever willing,
My place with patience filling, From sin and guilt has made me free.

V. The Word of Fulfillment
“I am thirsty.”
(John 19:28)

Hymn The Lutheran Hymnal 184, *“Jesus, in Thy Thirst and Pain”*

Jesus, in Thy thirst and pain, While Thy wounds Thy lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, Holy Jesus

Thirst for us in mercy still, All Thy holy work fulfill,
Satisfy Thy loving will; Hear us Holy Jesus.

May we thirst Thy love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the Healing waters flow; Hear us, Holy Jesus.

VI. The Word of Triumph
“It is finished.”
(John 19:30a)

Hymn Christian Worship 138:1-3, *“Oh, Perfect Life of Love”*

Oh, perfect life of love! All, all is finished now,
All that he left his throne above To do for us below.

No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;
His toil, his sorrows, one by one, The Scriptures have fulfilled.

No pain that we can share But he has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care Have pierced that tender heart.

VII. The Word of Committal
“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”
(Luke 23:46)

Hymn Christian Worship 137, *“Oh, Darkest Woe”*

Oh, darkest woe! O tears, forth flow! Has earth so sad a wonder?
God the Father’s only Son Now is buried yonder.

Oh, sorrow dread! God’s Son is dead! But by his expiation
Of our guilt upon the cross Gained for us salvation.

Lo, stained with blood, The Lamb of God, The Bridegroom lies before you.
Pouring out his life that he May to life restore you.

How blest shall be Eternally Who oft in faith will ponder
Why the glorious Prince of life Should be buried yonder.

O Jesus blest, My Help and Rest, With tears I now entreat you:
Make me love you to the last Till in heav'n I greet you.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Pastor/Congregation

Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how much our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there actually is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you. **Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.** Today we are reminded not only of your justice, but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings. **When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross where our guilt was washed away in Jesus' blood.** Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt that we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven. **For being our perfect Substitute, we thank you, Lord Jesus.** Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin, and commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love. **Give us the courage to face death, knowing that it is the gate to our home in heaven.** Hear us, Lord, as we offer our personal thanks for the forgiveness which you have given us, and for the home that you have won for us.

Silent Prayer

The cross was once an instrument of death. It is now a sign of life. **Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and of your love. Amen.**

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.

The Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: (speaks) **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Christian Worship 129, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my Sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut its glories in
When God, the mighty Maker, died For his own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While his dear cross appears.
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away – 'Tis all that I can do.

The Burial of Our Lord

WE EXIT THE CHURCH IN SOMBER SILENCE

These special Good Friday bulletins are given to the glory of our crucified LORD by
Gloria and Alan Stellmacher in memory of Beverly Stellmacher.

Pastor Rev. Michael J. Zuberbier
Organist Mr. David Koepsell