

# Tenebrae:

Darkness.

A time of worship commemorating  
the day our Lord died.

A time of darkness, remembering our sin that sent him to  
that cross.

## Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers April 7, 2023

### Introit

Psalm 38:1–4, 18, 22; antiphon: Isaiah 53:5

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

**upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,**

**and with his stripes we are healed.**

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,

**nor discipline me in your wrath!**

For your arrows have sunk into me,

**and your hand has come down on me.**

There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation;

**there is no health in my bones because of my sin.**

For my iniquities have gone over my head;

**like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.**

I confess my iniquity;

**I am sorry for my sin.**

Make haste to help me,

**O Lord, my salvation!**

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

**upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,**

**and with his stripes we are healed.**

### Hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

**Holy Gospel** *Passion of Christ*

John 18:1—19:42

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup>They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

**Hymn** "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"

LSB 663, st. 3

3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat  
 you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and  
 cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less  
 friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.

<sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup>So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

<sup>12</sup>So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

**Hymn** "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

LSB 436, st. 2

2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
 life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!  
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

<sup>15</sup>Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." <sup>18</sup>Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup>The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." <sup>22</sup>When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" <sup>24</sup>Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup>Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." <sup>26</sup>One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" <sup>27</sup>Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

**Hymn**

"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"

LSB 844, st. 3

3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred  
 By love - less act and thought - less word.  
 Make me to see the wrong I do  
 Will grieve my wound - ed Lord a - new.

<sup>28</sup>Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup>So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." <sup>37</sup>Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup>Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup>They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

**Hymn**

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

LSB 430, st. 5

*All* **They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;  
 A murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.  
 Yet cheerful He to suff'ring goes  
 That He His foes from thence might free.**

<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!"

**Hymn** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450, st. 1

1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,  
 Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
 O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
 Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.

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** "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"

LSB 439, st. 1

1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
 That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
 Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
 fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?

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.

**Hymn** "When I Behold Jesus Christ"

LSB 542, v. 3

*All* **You had no sin, holy Lord, but You were tortured, tried;  
On Golgotha there for all my sins You bled and died.  
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there to me on Calvary.  
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there to me on Calvary.**

<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."

**Hymn** "Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus"

]]LSB 531, st. 1

1 Hail, Thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, Thou Gal - i -  
le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us; Thou didst  
free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, Thou u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior,  
Bear - er of our sin and shame! By Thy mer - it  
we find fa - vor: Life is giv - en through Thy name.

<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.

**Hymn** "O Perfect Life of Love"

LSB 452, sts. 2-3

2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;  
3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;  
His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.  
All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.

<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.

**Hymn** "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

LSB 447, sts. 7, 9

*All* **Jesus, loving to the end  
Her whose heart Your sorrows rend,  
And Your dearest human friend:  
hear us, holy Jesus.**

<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.

**Hymn** "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

LSB 436, st. 3

3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

<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."

**Hymn** "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

LSB 419, st. 3

3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

<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.

**Hymn**

“Were You There”

LSB 456, st. 3

3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you  
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh . . .  
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

**Sermon**

“Murderous Sheep...Silent Lamb”

Isaiah 53:6-7

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned every one to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

**Anthem**

*Glory Be to Jesus*

Friedrich Filitz

*Choir* Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood from His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Abel’s blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

*All* **Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!**

## The Seven Last Words

### **First Word**

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

And Jesus said,

**“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

*First candle is extinguished.*

### **Second Word**

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying,  
“Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

But the other rebuked him, saying,

“Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him,

**“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”**

*Second candle is extinguished.*

### **Third Word**

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother,

**“Woman, behold your son!”**

Then he said to the disciple:

**“Behold, your mother!”**

And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

*Third candle is extinguished.*

### **Fourth Word**

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

**“Eli, Eli lama sabachthani?”**

that is,

**“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

*Fourth candle is extinguished.*

### **Fifth Word**

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),

**“I thirst.”**

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.

*Fifth candle is extinguished.*



### **Sixth Word**

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said,

**"It is finished."**

*Sixth candle is extinguished.*

### **Seventh Word**

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said,

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

And having said this he breathed his last.

*Seventh candle is extinguished.*

### **Kyrie**

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **Have mercy on us.**

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **Have mercy on us.**

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **Grant us peace.**

### **Lord's Prayer** (*whispered*)

**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 of the Tomb**

*There is no benediction as the worship service is not ended.  
We continue on Sunday morning as we celebrate  
our Lord's resurrection from the dead!*

*Please leave the sanctuary in silence.*