

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Good Friday - April 10, 2020
Seven Last Words of Jesus

As we return to the sanctuary, hours have passed. We hear about Jesus' betrayal, capture, and trial. We hear of his humiliation, his interrogation. We know the night was long for him, and lonely. Our visual center is the cross. There is nothing else to distract us. The pace is slow as the final hours must have been for him. We are reminded that Jesus' death was, paradoxically, the moment of his triumph. Through his death he defeated death. In gratitude we may spend a few private moments in adoration of the crucified one. We confess that this death is God's glory, but it is also silent between now and tomorrow. Deadly silent. Our hope and his promise will sustain us.

PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Service of Tenebrae is one of the oldest services in Christianity. Tonight's service will begin in light and, as our Lord speaks from the cross, the lights will one by one be extinguished. It will end in darkness. But one light will remain, symbolizing God's love for us. Although it may seem too dim and we may see it only from afar, it is still there.

SONG: "Song of the Shadows" by Eve Stone

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: We gather here to worship God.

C: We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for his love and his mercy.

L: Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

C: He grew up before God like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

L: 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.

C: Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

L: Let us pray,

C: Merciful God, as we remember how your son Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, how seven times he spoke seven words of love, we ask you to bless our hearing, help us to understand the mystery of your love, and make us into your faithful people. Amen.

HYMN #351 "Oh Sacred Head" vs. 1, 2

Verse 1

O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,

now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown;

O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!

Yet, though despised and glory, I joy to call thee mine.

Verse 2

How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;

how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!

Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;

mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

THE FIRST WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place called "The Skull", they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said "Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."

MEDITATION

PRAYER

C: Lord God, forgive us of the wrongs we have done, the injustice to which we have been party, and the countless denials of your mercy we have expressed. Turn us toward the love offered in your Son, and cleanse us by your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG: "Via Dolorosa" by Michelle Matthees

(Extinguishing the First Candle)

THE SECOND WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: "Don't you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come into your kingdom!" Jesus said to him, "I tell you this: Today you will be in Paradise with me."

MEDITATION

PRAYER

C: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave his life for ours. Amen.

HYMN #336 "Lamb of God"

Verse 1

**Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God**

Verse 2

**Your gift of love we crucified,
We laughed and scorned Him as He died.
The humble King we named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God**

Chorus

**Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God**

Verse 3

**I was so lost, I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God**

(Extinguishing the Second Candle)

THE THIRD WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: John 19:25-27

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

MEDITATION

PRAYER

C: Lord God, bless the family. Pour out your care upon husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, that knowing your care for us on the cross, we may care for one another. Amen.

SONG "There's a Cross for Me" by Sara Stusz

(Extinguishing the Third Candle)

THE FOURTH WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 15:33-34

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Elo-i, elo-i, lama sabach-thani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

MEDITATION

PRAYER

C: Father, when your Son was handed over to torture and felt abandoned by you, he cried out from the cross. Then death was destroyed, and life was restored. By his death and resurrection save the poor, lift up the downtrodden, break the chains of the oppressed, and let us be assured of your presence with us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #349 "Ah, Holy Jesus" vs. 1,2

Verse 1

Ah, holy Jesus, how has thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected.
O most afflicted.

Verse 2

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I,
Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

Verse 3

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.

Verse 4

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Verse 5

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

(Extinguishing the Fourth Candle)

THE FIFTH WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: John 19:28

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the scripture, "I thirst."

MEDITATION

PRAYER

C: O Lord, our God, help us who are born again by water and the Holy Spirit. Watch over our welfare on this perilous journey, shade us from the burning heat of day, and keep our lives free of evil now and forever. Amen.

SONG "To the Cross" by Debbi St. John

(Extinguishing the Fifth Candle)

THE SIXTH WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: John 19:29-30

A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar, so a sponge was soaked in it, put on a branch of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished";

MEDITATION

PRAYER

C: Lord God, heavenly Father, your Son fulfilled your holy will so that we might stand before you. Fill us with your Spirit and move us to place our confidence only in you, and then on the day of judgment we shall rejoice to see you face to face; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #353 "Were You There" vs. 1-2

Verse 1

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Were you there when they crucified my Lord
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord**

Verse 2

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree**

(Extinguishing the Sixth Candle)

THE SEVENTH WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last

MEDITATION

PRAYER

C: Lord Jesus, hanging on the cross you called on your Father with a mighty cry as you gave up your spirit. Through your death you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death. Grant us so to rise with you, and commit our lives to you, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #353 "Were You There" vs. 3-5

Verse 3

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

Verse 4

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

Verse 5

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

(Extinguishing the Seventh Candle)

RESPONSIVE READING:

L: We should glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ.

C: **For he is our life and salvation.**

L: God so loved the world.

C: **That He gave His only Son.**

L: The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.

C: **And to give His life as a ransom for us.**

L: It was thus that He humbled himself.

C: **Obediently accepting even death.**

L: It was our infirmities he bore,

C: **Our sufferings that he endured.**

L: Christ became obedient for us, even unto death on the Cross. Behold the life giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: **Oh, come let us worship him.**

SILENT MEDITATION

The central lighted Christ-candle is removed and hidden from the sight of the congregation, symbolizing the death of Jesus Christ and how Christ the Light of the World was buried. After a period of silent meditation, a loud noise is made by the closing of a book. This symbolizes the earthquake and our Lord's breaking of the power of death. Then the lighted candle is restored to its place symbolizing Christ's resurrection.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (whispered)

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.**

The congregation leaves in complete silence.
The service continues with worship on Easter Sunday.