



GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH • SCHOOL • EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

GUIDED
to the
CROSS

Good Friday
GUIDED TO SACRIFICE



Good Friday Worship

March 29, 2024
12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

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Explanation of the Service of Darkness

The service is patterned after the ancient office of Tenebrae. The word “Tenebrae” means “darkness.” The purpose of the service is to impress upon us the terrible reality of sin, which caused our Savior to have to die for us, as well as the wonders of our Savior’s great love, which led Him to willingly die for us.

A total of eight candles are used. Seven of these candles represent the seven last sentences which our Lord spoke from the cross. The eighth is the Christ Candle, representing Christ’s eternal presence with us. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

As the seven candles are extinguished, causing the chancel to become darker, we are reminded of the darkness that covered the earth at the time that Jesus said these last words. It also reminds us of the spiritual darkness that would have existed had the “Light of the World” not come.

The exit of the Christ Candle at the end of the service signifies Christ’s death and burial...but note...it is not extinguished...symbolic of the eternal light of God’s love. We await Easter morning with eager anticipation.

In this particular service, we are also including excerpts from the ancient passion readings. These readings are a harmony of the passion accounts recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John into one document. Today, these readings are not read in chronological order, but in accordance with the themes of Jesus’ seven last words. The ancient passion readings, powerfully remind us of the extent of our Lord’s love. He would go to the cross—and die—for us!

(*Indicates when the congregation is to stand.)

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

***STATIONING OF THE CROSS**

(The people turn and face the cross as it is carried from the narthex to the altar. The following versicle and response is said at three stations, the first station when the procession begins.)

1st Station:

Pastor: Behold, the Salvation of the world was hung on a cross.

People: Oh, come let us worship Him.

2nd Station:

Pastor: Behold, the Salvation of the world was hung on a cross.

People: Oh, come let us worship Him.

3rd Station:

Pastor: Behold, the Salvation of the world was hung on a cross.

People: Oh, come let us worship Him.

***INVOCATION OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

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

People: Amen.

***CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Come, bless the Lord and beg for His forgiveness, all of you who stand in the House of the Lord.

People: I confess, O Lord Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. Wherefore, I pray You, Almighty God, to have mercy on me, forgive me all of my sins and bring me to everlasting life, through Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

Pastor: I, as a servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ, announce the grace of God unto you and forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Come now, and hear again, of what our forgiveness cost our Lord.

HYMN*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (vv. 1 & 3)***Hymn 425*

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?

(Please be seated.)

MEDITATIONS ON “The Seven Last Words” along with excerpts from **The Ancient Passion Readings** drawn from the four Gospels.

The Passion Reading: The Home of the High Priest at night

HYMN**“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (vv. 1-2)***Hymn 449*

1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
 2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
 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!
 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.
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

THE FIRST WORD

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

The Passion Reading: The Early Morning trial At Daybreak

The Meditation: Words of Forgiveness

HYMN

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (vv. 1-3)

Hymn 437



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.

THE SECOND WORD

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

The Passion Reading: The Morning Crucifixion at Calvary

The Meditation: Trusting the Truth

HYMN

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (vv. 4-5)

Hymn 447

4 Je - sus, pit - y - ing the sighs Of the thief, who
5 May we in our guilt and shame Still Your love and
near You dies, Prom - is - ing him par - a - dise:
mer - cy claim, Call - ing hum - bly on Your name:
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

THE THIRD WORD

“Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!”

The Meditation: Mary witnessed Jesus’ selflessness

The Passion Reading: Earlier that Morning before Pilate

The Meditation: John witnessed Jesus’ selflessness

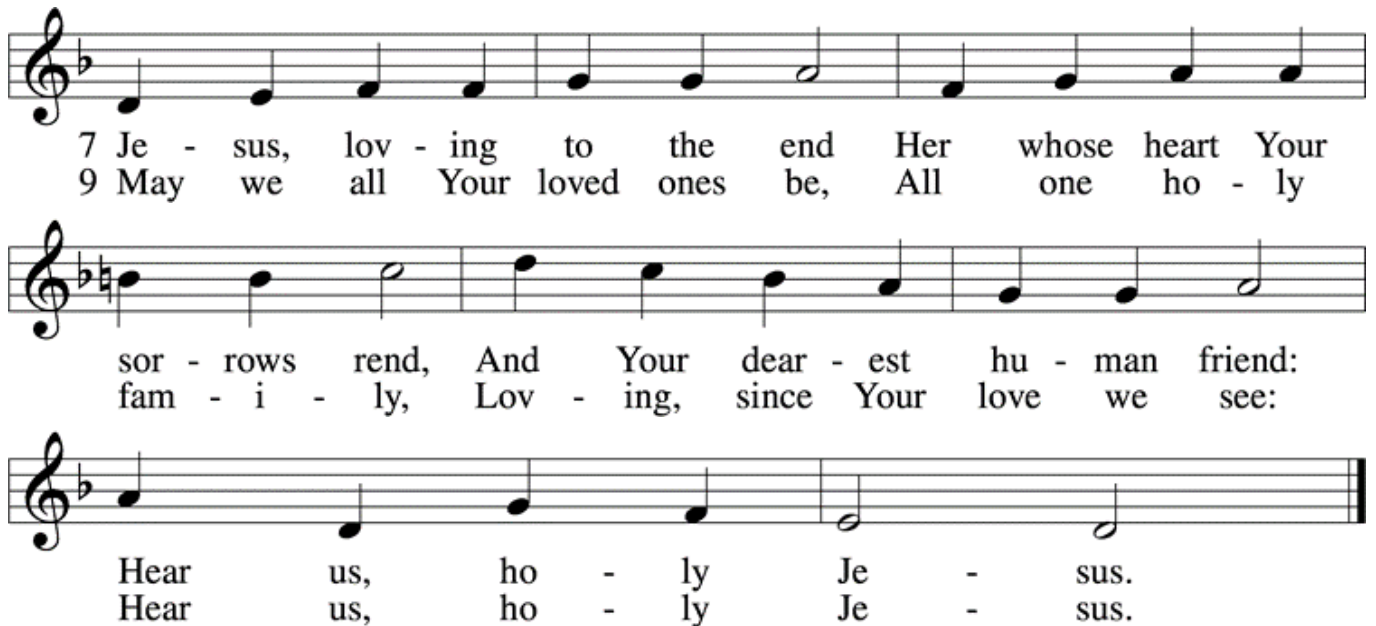
The Passion Reading: The Previous Eve in Gethsemane

The Meditation: Jesus continued to think

[12:00] HYMN

“Jesus, In Your Dying Woes” (vv. 7 & 9)

Hymn 447



7 Je - sus, lov - ing to the end Her whose heart Your
9 May we all Your loved ones be, All one ho - ly

sor - rows rend, And Your dear - est hu - man friend:
fam - i - ly, Lov - ing, since Your love we see:

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

[7:00] ANTHEM

“Lamb of God”
(Grace Chorale)

Twila Paris

THE FOURTH WORD

"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

The Passion Reading: On the Way to Calvary and the Crucifixion

The Meditation: Thoughts of Simon of Cyrene after Carrying Jesus' Cross

HYMN

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (vv. 1-3)

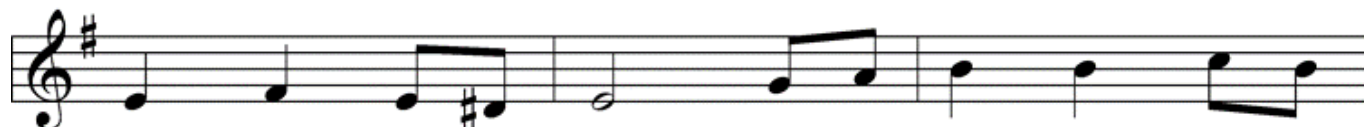
Hymn 451



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - spect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.

THE FIFTH WORD

"I thirst."

The Passion Reading: The Garden Arrest

The Meditation: The One with Living Water Thirsts

HYMN

"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"

Hymn 439

(vv. 1, 2 & 4)



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
owe Him, Who would not know Him.

THE SIXTH WORD

“It is finished!”

The Meditation: Exactly what is Finished?

The Passion Reading: The Crowd’s Witness of Jesus before Pilate

[12:00]HYMN

“O Perfect Life of Love”

Hymn 452

(vv. 1, 4 & 5)



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul
5 In per - fect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.
O all - a - ton - ing Sac - ri - fice, I cling by faith to Thee.

[7:00]ANTHEM

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

David Paxton

(Grace Chorale)

THE SEVENTH WORD

“Father into Thy hands I commit my spirit!”

The Passion Reading: The Ninth Hour at Calvary

The Meditation: The Centurion Professes His Faith

THE SONG

“Were You There?”
(Vocal Solo)

African American Spiritual

THE ENDING

The Passion Reading: The Corpse is Removed and Sealed in a Tomb

Removal of the Christ Candle.

The Closing of the Book.

The congregation is asked to leave silently following the closing of the Book.

The Participants

Meditations

Passion Readings

Voices

Jesus

Pilate

High Priest

Soldier/Centurion

Organist

12:00

7:00

Vocalists

Choir Director/Accompanist

Sound Technician

12:00

7:00

Cross Bearer

Acolyte

Elder on Duty

12:00

7:00

Greeters

12:00

7:00

Ushers

12:00

7:00

The Rev. Charles T. Reich

Ed & Nikki Smith

The Rev. Brendon T. Moore

Vicar Mark Esser

Roger Walker

John Price

Sandy Hulse

Kathy Schelp

Paige Esser, Peggy Jo Griffin

Valerie Groskopf

Josh Woods

Rodney Steffen

Andrew Woods

Aaron Woods

Tammi Straughn

Karen Nelson

Suzanne Ellett, Sharon Wilson

Carl & Tanya Locke

Jerry Juergens, Roger Walker

Nick Nicholson, Dr. Ken Rogers, Barry Walker

CREDITS

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