

# Good Friday April 18, 2025

# "The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us"

#### **AS WE GATHER**

The Order of Tenebrae is an early Christian worship service utilized in the observance of Good Friday. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "darkness" or "in the shadows," and the service is characterized by the gradual removal of light from the sanctuary as the scriptural accounts are read, describing the death of our Lord. Tenebrae is not a funeral service for Jesus, but rather a time of repentance as we consider His love for us. Following silent prayer at the close of the service, worshippers will depart. We ask that there be no speaking until you have left the church grounds. We return to our homes in contemplation of the meaning of Christ's death for us and in the certain hope of the Easter victory soon to be celebrated.



#### THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the 

■ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Silence for repentant self-examination)

P: O almighty God,

C: Merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

#### THE COLLECT

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

# THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (ESV)

Behold, My Servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at You—His appearance was so marred, beyond human resemblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall He sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground: He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But 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. 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. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? And they made His grave with the

wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

# **THE EPISTLE** Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 (ESV)

Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . . In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was the Son, He found out from what He suffered what it means to obey. And when He was finished, He became the Source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

# THE HYMN OF THE DAY #453 "Upon the Cross Extended"



- Your soul in griefs unbounded,
   Your head with thorns surrounded,
   You died to ransom me.
   The cross for me enduring,
   The crown for me securing,
   You healed my wounds and set me free.
- Your cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to You forever, I am no longer mine.
   To You I gladly tender All that my life can render And all I have to You resign.
- 7 Your cross I place before me;
   Its saving pow'r restore me,
   Sustain me in the test.
   It will, when life is ending,
   Be guiding and attending
   My way to Your eternal rest.

#### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

## THE HYMN #432 "In Silent Pain the Eternal Son"



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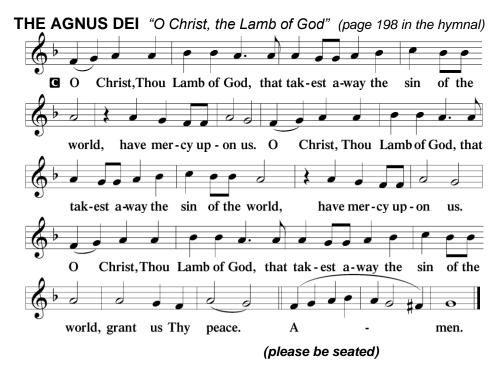
(please stand)

#### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



# THE DISTRIBUTION

#### THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in ♣ peace.

C: Amen.

# THE SERVICE OF DARKNESS THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AS RECORDED BY ST. JOHN

**THE READING FROM THE PASSION** John 18:1-11 (Betrayal and arrest of Jesus)

#### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ.
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth. We ask You to keep Your Church safe throughout the world, defending her against Satan; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(The first candle is extinguished.)

## **THE HYMN** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (LSB 450)

 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 gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

## THE READING FROM THE PASSION John 18:12-27

(Jesus before the High Priest and the denial of Peter)

#### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives that reflect godliness and honesty:
- C: O merciful Father in heaven, You hold in Your hand all the power of humanity for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well throughout all the world. We humbly pray for Your guidance and protection of all who serve in our church, community, county, state, nation, and in each nation in the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(The second candle is extinguished.)

# THE HYMN "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (LSB 450)

2) How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn! How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn! Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life; Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

THE READING FROM THE PASSION John 18:28-40 (Jesus before Pilate)

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for all who are not yet believers in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ that God would call them to faith in Him and gather them into His family, the Church:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, because You do not want anyone to be lost to You, hear our prayers for all who do not yet believe in You. Open their eyes, hearts, and minds to the wonder of Your glory and bring them into the body of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(The third candle is extinguished.)

**THE HYMN** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (LSB 450)

3) What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain; Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place; Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.

THE READING FROM THE PASSION John 19:1-16a (Jesus prepared for crucifixion)

#### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray to our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all terror, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those who are oppressed, give health to the sick, and a safe journey to all who travel:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sorrowful and strength of the weak, hear the prayers of those who cry to You in suffering or distress, so that in all their needs they celebrate in Your help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

**THE HYMN** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (LSB 450)

4) My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine. Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine. Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love; Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.

THE READING FROM THE PASSION John 19:16b-24 (The crucifixion of Jesus)

# THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously give them the things which are necessary and beneficial for their salvation:
- C: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We ask You, by Your gracious mercy, to lead all our enemies to true repentance so they may experience the same love and be of one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

**THE HYMN** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (LSB 450)

5) What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?

O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

THE READING FROM THE PASSION John 19:25-30 (Jesus' mother and His death)

#### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for peace, that we may experience the peace that is beyond our understanding as God comes to us through His Word and Sacraments, leading us by the Holy Spirit in our daily walk:
- C: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose divine intervention all things are ordered, the God of peace and the Author of all harmony, give us Your heavenly peace and unity that we may serve You in true awe and reverence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

**THE HYMN** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (LSB 450)

6) My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door; Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore! When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone, But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

THE READING FROM THE PASSION John 19:31-37 (Jesus' side is pierced)

P: Let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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 seventh candle is extinguished.)

**THE HYMN** "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (LSB 450)

7) Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die; Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh. Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell, My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.

#### THE CLOSING RESPONSE

P: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C: By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

The Christ candle is carried out.

The congregation is invited to meditate silently on Christ's suffering and death.

After a time, a rumbling noise symbolizes the earthquake at the time of Christ's death, a loud noise (the strepitus) symbolizes the closing of the tomb, and finally we hear a sound symbolizing the "closing of the book" on Jesus' sacrifice.

The candle is returned to its place, reminding us that our redemption is complete. You may remain in the sanctuary for meditation or prayer as long as you like.

The omission of the Benediction tonight indicates that our worship is not complete until joined with the celebration of Easter.

You are asked to leave in silence anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.

Easter sunrise worship is at 6:30 a.m.

Our second Easter service is at 9:30 a.m.