

Good Friday, 2022



Saved By Grace Lutheran Church
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Tim Bartels, pastor
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Witnesses to Christ: John, the Gospel Writer

Our journey to follow Christ through witnesses to Christ arrives now at the cross. Tonight, we view Christ on the cross through the author's eyes—John, Apostle and Evangelist, the beloved disciple, the son of Zebedee, and the brother of James. By John's witness, we view Jesus beaten and bloodied. We hear His words of forgiveness and fulfillment. We see Him shedding His blood for the life of the world. As we sing and pray and sit in silence this evening, we ponder Christ's love for us. We marvel at His gifts of forgiveness and salvation, for we have been clothed with the blood of Christ.

Tonight's service is a Tenebrae service. Tenebrae means "darkness." When Jesus hung upon the cross in the middle of the day, the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the earth. It reflected the darkness of sin, death and hell that Jesus suffered on the cross in our place to free us from them.

In our service tonight, a candelabra, consisting of seven candles, will be extinguished one by one as the Passion History recorded by St. John (ESV) are read. The extinguishing of the candles reminds us of the darkness Jesus entered into for our sakes. At the end of the service one of the candles will be relit - looking ahead to Easter when the light of Jesus' resurrection triumphs over hell's darkness.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

(All enter the church in silence.)

1. THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: **Amen.**

2. A READING FROM ISAIAH 53

⁴Surely He has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed Him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

⁶All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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?

⁹And 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.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him;
He has put Him to grief;
when His soul makes an offering for sin,
He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: ♪ **Thanks be to You, O Lord!**

P: Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

3 THE PASSION HISTORY ACCORDING TO ST JOHN

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. 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. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." 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.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Hymn #334:1

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 gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

1ST CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

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

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 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. 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." 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.

Hymn #334:3

Now from Thy cheeks has vanished Their color, once so fair;
From Thy red lips is banished The splendor that was there.
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life,
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

2ND CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 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. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." 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?" 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?" Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

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." 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?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Hymn #334:4 (*see next page*)

What Thou, my Lord has 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, Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

3RD CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

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. So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." 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." This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 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." 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." 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. 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?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Hymn #334: 5

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 milk and sweetest food;
Thy Spirit oft has led me To stores of heav'nly food.

4TH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. 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." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." 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." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 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?" 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." 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." 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. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 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." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Hymn #334:6

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.

5TH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 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. 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.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." 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, 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 #334:7

The joy can n'er be spoken, Above all joys beside,
When in Thy body broken I thus with safety hide.
O Lord of life, desiring Thy glory now to see,
Beside Thy cross expiring, I'd breathe my soul to Thee.

6TH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

(Tonight's text) 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 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. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

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. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 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. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

Hymn #334:8

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!

7TH CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

4. SERMON TEXT AND THEME - John 19:25-37, "Witnesses to Christ, John"

5. THE OFFERING

6. THE PRAYERS

7. HYMN OF PREPARATION: 314: 1-2, 7-8

8. PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION: "We do not presume..." p. 40 (ELH)

9. THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(sung in unison)*

♪ **Our Father ...**

10. THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION, p. 78 (ELH)

11. THE AGNUS DEI, p. 79,80 (ELH)

♪ **O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**
O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

12. DISTRIBUTION AND HYMN: #333, "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

13. HYMN OF THANKS: #325, "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"

14. COLLECT OF THANKS, p. 83 (ELH)

15. CLOSING OF THE BOOK

(It has been a centuries-old custom in some tenebrae services to turn off almost all lights for a few moments as the service is concluding, symbolic of our Savior's death and of His burial in the dark tomb, and then to loudly close a book to signify the closing of the tomb with a large stone. This will be done in a moment, after the reading of Jesus' burial.)

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. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 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. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

LIGHTS DIMMED; CLOSING OF THE BOOK

16 THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with your spirit**

17. THE CLOSING PRAYER

P: Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the earth may look to You and see their salvation; for Your mercy's sake we pray. **C: Amen.**

18 THE CLOSING HYMN: #298,1,7-8, "Sing, My Tongue, How Glorious Battle"

19. THE CANDLE RELIT: Congregation leaves in silence.

Because of the unifying services from Maundy Thursday to Easter, called the Triduum, no Benediction is spoken at the conclusion of the service. The benediction spoken on Easter Sunday concludes all the services of the Triduum.

*Please join us for – Easter Festive Coffee Hour – 8:30 am –
Easter Festival Service – 10 am*