

Good Friday  
Tenebrae  
April 3, 2026



Saved By Grace Lutheran Church  
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Tim Bartels, pastor  
John Rakos, organist

## I. Service of the Seven Last Words

### 1. *Invocation*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, at this hour, the Church remembers the death our Lord Jesus willingly took upon Himself to take away our sins. It is a reminder of the magnitude of our sin and, at the same time, the great value He places on us and our salvation. Let us therefore ponder His suffering and death with sober reflection and resolute joy.

### 2. *A Reading: Matthew 27:24–44*

A reading from St. Matthew, chapter 27.

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him and led Him away to crucify Him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry His cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by

casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. And over His head they put the charge against Him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him. For He said, 'I am the Son of God.' " And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way.

*A period of silence*

### *3. The Seven Words*

*The First Word:* Luke 23:33–34

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." And they cast lots to divide His garments.

*Hymn: "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" (tune, Septum Verba)*

Jesus, in Your dying woes, Even while Your lifeblood flows,  
Craving pardon for Your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Savior, for our pardon sue When our sins Your pangs renew,  
For we know not what we do: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Oh, may we, who mercy need, Be like You in heart and deed,  
When with wrong our spirits bleed: Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Collect*

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your sinlessness You never needed forgiveness and yet You forgave those who sinned against You without cause. As You have forgiven us our sin against You, give us grace to forgive those who sin against us. **Amen.**

*A period of silence: First candle extinguished.*

*The Second Word:* Luke 23:39–43

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

*Hymn: “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”*

Jesus, pitying the sighs Of the thief, who near You dies,  
Promising him paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we in our guilt and shame  
Still Your love and mercy claim,  
Calling humbly on Your name: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May our hearts to You incline  
And their thoughts Your cross entwine.  
Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Collect:*

Lord Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom that we, too, may be with You in Paradise. **Amen.**

*A period of silence: Second candle extinguished.*

*The Third Word:* John 19:26–27

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.

*Hymn: “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”*

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

May we in Your sorrows share, For Your sake all peril dare,  
And enjoy Your tender care: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we all Your loved ones be, All one holy family,  
Loving, since Your love we see: Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Collect:*

Lord Jesus, even in Your death, You put those who are lonely  
and neglected into families. Draw many into Your family that  
we may praise You together with them forever. **Amen.**

*A period of silence: Third candle extinguished.*

*The Fourth Word: Mark 15:34*

At the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi,  
lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why  
have You forsaken Me?"

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

Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown, With our evil left alone,  
While no light from heav'n is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus.

When we seem in vain to pray And our hope seems far away,  
In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Though no Father seems to hear,  
Though no light our spirits cheer,  
May we know that God is near: Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Collect:*

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,  
You were forsaken by Your Father so that we would not be  
forsaken. Give us grace to rely on Your complete sacrifice, that  
we may always trust our heavenly Father's love for us. **Amen.**

*A period of silence: Fourth candle extinguished.*

*The Fifth Word: John 19:28*

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

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

Jesus, in Your thirst and pain,  
While Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,  
Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Thirst for us in mercy still; All Your holy work fulfill;  
Satisfy Your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we thirst Your love to know. Lead us in our sin and woe  
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Collect:*

Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Jews and King of the nations, You have promised that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness would be satisfied. Give us faith to trust that Your thirst on the cross supplies all that we need. **Amen.**

*A period of silence: Fifth candle extinguished.*

*The Sixth Word: John 19:30*

When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.

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

Jesus, all our ransom paid, All Your Father's will obeyed;  
By Your suff'rings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Save us in our soul's distress; Be our help to cheer and bless  
While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Brighten all our heav'nward way With an ever holier ray  
Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Collect:*

Lord Jesus, You could have found the pain to be too much. You

could have come down from the cross. But You remained until all was finished. Give us confidence to follow You completely through our trials and crosses because You are the author and finisher of our faith. **Amen.**

*A period of silence: Sixth candle extinguished.*

*The Seventh Word:* Luke 23:44–46

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 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.

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

Jesus, all Your labor vast, All Your woe and conflict past,  
Yielding up Your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.

When the death shades round us low'r,  
Guard us from the tempter's pow'r,  
Keep us in that trial hour: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May Your life and death supply Grace to live and grace to die,  
Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Collect:*

Lord Jesus, when You had finished all, You handed Your spirit over to Your Father, that He would then give His spirit back to You. Keep us in the one true faith, that on the last day, our spirit may be given back to our mortal bodies and we may rise to serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Period of silence: Seventh candle extinguished.*

4. *Sermon and Sermon Text: John 19:17–30. "It Is Finished"*  
And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called *the Place of a Skull*, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where

they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, *and* Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

## 7. The Offering

*8. Stand for the Reading: Matthew 27:51–54*

A reading from St. Matthew, the 27th chapter: Jesus cried out with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with Him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

*8. The Prayers:*

O Lord, **Have mercy upon us.** O Christ, **Have mercy upon us.** O Lord, **Have mercy upon us.**

Almighty God, we pray that You would graciously behold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed into the hands of wicked men and 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 true God, now and forever. **Amen**

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross, that You might remove from us the power of the adversary: Help us to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may obtain remission of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**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.**

## **II. Service of Holy Communion**

9. *Hymn of Preparation: 314, "Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord" (tune, "Old 124<sup>th</sup>")*

10. *The Prayer Before Holy Communion (p. 40, ELH):*

Most Gracious Lord, You bid us to approach Your altar in confidence and hope. "Come, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." O sweet and friendly word in a sinner's ear, that you, our God, invite the needy and the poor to the communion of Your body and blood. You, the Lord of the Universe, have willed to come to me, a poor and lowly sinner, to live in me. Of Your infinite grace you have made me your own dwelling place, for Your glory and my eternal salvation! Grant me grace at all times and in all places to give You hearty thanks for this marvelous gift. O Christ, Lamb of God, grant me Your eternal peace. **Amen** p. 40 (ELH)

11. *The Words of Institution, p. 78 (ELH)*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

12. *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.**

13. *The Distribution*

*14. The Collect of Thanks, p. 83 (ELH):*

Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness sent Your only begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we asked You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen!**

*15. The Salutation:*

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

*16. The Closing Collect:*

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. **Amen.**

*17. The Closing Hymn: #298:1,7-8, "Sing, My Tongue, How Glorious"*

*18. The Closing of the Book:* Signifying the closing of Jesus' tomb

*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 Sunday for –  
Easter Festive Coffee Hour at 8:30 am  
Easter Festival Service at 10 am*

