



GOD ON TRIAL

EVIDENCE

Good Friday Tenebrae

March 29, 2024

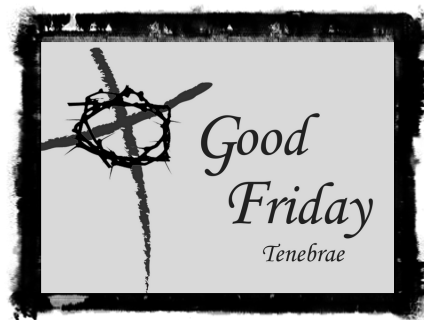
SERVICE NOTES FOR TENEBRAE

THE DAY: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter commemorate the central events of the Christian Church. Good Friday is the solemn celebration of the Lord's suffering and death on the cross. Our remembrance of Jesus' death, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but a service of adoration of the Son of God as he gives up his life. We gather here today to celebrate the sacrifice of the cross. So we remember his passion, but do so with a triumphant note—for we know that in his resurrection Christ has conquered sin, death, and the devil.

THE SERVICE: Tenebræ is an ancient service of the Church. The Latin word "tenebræ" means "darkness." During this service the candles will be extinguished and lights will be progressively dimmed. In this we remember that God the Father cloaked the land with darkness during the death of his Son (*Matthew 27:45*). This service is a time for prayerful meditation. There is no preservice music. The altar remains stripped bare. There are moments of extended silence for meditation on the magnitude of Christ's sacrificial love.

After each reading a candle is extinguished. The seventh candle represents Christ. It is not extinguished, but carried from the chancel to his Father's side. Then is heard the strepitus, a loud noise that represents the rending of Christ's tomb. The seventh candle is returned to burn in the chancel, foreshadowing the joy that awaits us on Easter morning.

THE DISMISSAL: The service concludes with the final song, "Lord, Let at Last Your Angels Come," which J.S. Bach used to close his St. John's Passion. There is no closing blessing or closing hymn. The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation. The congregation will dismiss themselves and leave God's house in silence, to return and gather for the Easter sunrise.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher

Pianist/Organist

Cantors

Adult Choir

Pastor Adam Mueller

Rachel Casmer

Pastor Mueller, Vicar Otto, Linda Kirkpatrick, Amy Klouse

Directed by: Nathan Reich

† ORDER OF SERVICE †

Worshippers gather in silence.

The Tenebrae candles are lit.

The minister enters in silence.

Stand

GOSPEL

John 19:17-30

A reading from the Gospel of St. John:

Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Be seated

PSALM

Psalm 2

The psalm will be read responsively.

(Antiphon) The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Why do the nations conspire
And the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together
Against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

"Let us break their chains," they say,
"And throw off their fetters."

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
The Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,
The ends of the earth your possession.

You will rule them with an iron scepter;
You will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Therefore, you kings, be wise;
Be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear
And rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

(Antiphon) The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

The first candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

PSALM

Psalm 22

The psalm will be sung by cantors.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
By night, and am not silent.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
You are the praise of Israel.

In you our fathers put their trust;
They trusted and you delivered them.

They cried to you and were saved;
In you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man,
Scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
They hurl insults, shaking their heads:

"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

Yet you brought me out of the womb;
You made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

From birth I was cast upon you;
From my mother's womb you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,
For trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls surround me;
Strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Roaring lions tearing their prey
Open their mouths wide against me.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
You lay me in the dust of death.

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,
They have pierced my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones;
People stare and gloat over me.

They divide my garments among them
And cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Deliver my life from the sword,
My precious life from the power of the dogs.

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
Save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

The second candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

PSALM

Psalm 27

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evil men advance against me
to devour my flesh,
when my enemies and my foes attack me,
they will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then will I be confident.

⁴ One thing I ask of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

- ⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle
and set me high upon a rock.
- ⁶ Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- ⁷ Hear my voice when I call, O Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.
- ⁸ My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.
- ⁹ Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me,
O God my Savior.
- ¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.
- ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.
- ¹² Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
breathing out violence.
- ¹³ I am still confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

The third candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.



CHOIR CANTICLE

Seek the Lord

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him when he is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.
"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
As the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return to it without watering the earth

and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty;
but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

Stand

HYMN

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle | 419

**Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
waged in blood on Calvary;
o'er the cross, triumphant trophy,
tell who struggled valiantly;
tell how earth's Redeemer conquered—
victim gaining victory.**

**Tell how, when at length the fullness
of th' appointed time was come,
he, the Word, was born of woman,
left for us his Father's home,
blazed the path of true obedience,
shone as light amidst the gloom.**

**Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
he went forth from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing,
did his work and met his death;
like a lamb he humbly yielded
on the cross his dying breath.**

**Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your equal be,
symbol of the world's redemption,
for your burden makes us free.**

**Unto God be praise and glory;
to the Father and the Son,
to th' Eternal Spirit honor
now and evermore be done—
praise and glory in the highest
while the timeless ages run.**

Be seated

READING

Lamentations 1:1-5

A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!
How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!
She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks.
Among all her lovers there is none to comfort her.
All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile.
She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.
All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed feasts.
All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan,
her maidens grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.
Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease.
The LORD has brought her grief because of her many sins.
Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the LORD your God!

HYMN

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy | **947:1**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy,
who on the cross did suffer,
ever patient and lowly,
yourself to scorn did offer.
All sin you carried for us,
else had despair reigned o'er us:
have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

READING

Lamentations 1:6-9

A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

All the splendor has departed from the Daughter of Zion.
Her princes are like deer that find no pasture;
in weakness they have fled before the pursuer.
In the days of her affliction and wandering Jerusalem remembers all the treasures
that were hers in days of old.
When her people fell into enemy hands, there was no one to help her.
Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction.

Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean.
All who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness;
she herself groans and turns away.

Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future.
Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her.
"Look, O LORD, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed."

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the LORD your God!

HYMN

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy | **947:2**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy,
who on the cross did suffer,
ever patient and lowly,
yourself to scorn did offer.
All sin you carried for us,
else had despair reigned o'er us:
have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

READING

Lamentations 1:10-14

A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

The enemy laid hands on all her treasures;
she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary—
those you had forbidden to enter your assembly.

All her people groan as they search for bread;
they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive.
"Look, O LORD, and consider, for I am despised."

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see.
Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me,
that the LORD brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?"

"From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones.
He spread a net for my feet and turned me back.
He made me desolate, faint all the day long.

"My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together.
They have come upon my neck and the Lord has sapped my strength.
He has handed me over to those I cannot withstand.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the LORD your God!

HYMN

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy | **947:3**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy,
who on the cross did suffer,
ever patient and lowly,
yourself to scorn did offer.
All sin you carried for us,
else had despair reigned o'er us:
your peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**



³⁸ Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' " ⁴⁴ In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

⁴⁵ From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵² The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"



CANTICLE

Song of Mary

Sung in unison. Music can be found on page 220 of the hymnal.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise made to our fathers, to Abraham,
and to his children forever. Amen.**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has exalted him to the highest place and given him the name that is above every name.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.
Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

The seventh candle is carried from the chancel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over into the hands of the wicked, and to suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Silence for meditation.

A loud sound may now be heard in the sanctuary. Known as the Strepitus, this sound represents the rending of Jesus' tomb. The reappearance of a burning candle foreshadows Christ's return to life.

DISMISSAL STATEMENT

Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

Amen.

HYMN

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart | 817:3

The hymn will be sung by a cantor.

Lord, let at last thine angels come,
to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home
that I may die unfearing;
and in its narrow chamber keep
my body safe in peaceful sleep
until thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
that these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, thy glorious face,
my Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
and I will praise thee without end.

The minister exits the chancel.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.



EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Dawn Service (*outside*)
- 7:00 a.m. Easter breakfast served
- 8:00 a.m. Easter Festival Service
- 9:00 a.m. Easter breakfast served
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Activities/Egg Hunt
- 10:45 a.m. Easter Festival Service (*same as 8:00 a.m.*)

- ❖ *Please reserve the pews in the back of the church for families with small children.*
- ❖ *Restrooms are located in the entrance area of the church. A changing table is available in the women's restroom.*
- ❖ *A quiet room with a window is available in the entrance area of the church and offers live audio of the service. Parents may use this room to calm a restless child.*
- ❖ *If you would like to know more about Redeemer, visit redeemertucson.com or contact Pastor Mueller.*



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