



Tenebrae Worship

*A Service of Light and Shadows
focusing on Jesus'
Seven Last Words from the Cross*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Hermiston Oregon

March 29, 2024



Good Friday

Tenebrae Service

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What Will Happen Tonight . . .

Hymn #451 vv. 1-2 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

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Responsive Reading

Isaiah 53:1, 3-9 NIV

P: Who has believed our message

C: And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

P: He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

C: Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

P: yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.

C: But He was pierced for our transgressions,

He was crushed for our iniquities;

**the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,
and by His wounds we are healed.**

P: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

C: and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

P: He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away.

C: And who can speak of His descendants?

P: For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death,

C: though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Hymn #451 vv. 3-4 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

- 3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.
- 4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

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Confession and Absolution of Sins (using the poem “*Yet I Sin*”)

P: On this day – the day our Lord gave up His life – it is good and wise for us to humbly consider our standing before the Lord and confess our sins. Let us pray . . .

P: Eternal Father, Thou art good beyond all thought,

C: But I am vile, wretched, miserable, blind;

P: My lips are ready to confess,

**C: but my heart is slow to feel,
and my ways reluctant to amend.**

P: I bring my soul to Thee;

C: break it, wound it, bend it, mould it.

P: Unmask to me sin's deformity,

C: that I may hate it, abhor it, flee from it.

P: My faculties have been a weapon of revolt against Thee;

**C: as a rebel I have misused my strength,
and served the foul adversary of Thy kingdom.**

P: Give me grace to bewail my folly,

**C: Grant me to know that the way of transgressors is hard,
that evil paths are wretched paths,
that to depart from Thee is to lose all good.**

P: I have seen the purity and beauty of Thy perfect law,

**C: the happiness of those in whose heart it reigns,
the calm dignity of the walk to which it calls,
yet I daily violate its precepts.**

P: Thy loving Spirit strives within me,

**C: brings me Scripture warnings,
speaks in startling providences,
allures by secret whispers,**

P: yet I choose devices and desires to my own hurt,

C: **impiously resent, grieve,
and provoke Him to abandon me.**

P: All these sins I mourn, lament, and for them cry pardon.

C: **Work in me more profound and abiding repentance;**

P: Give me the fullness of a godly grief that trembles and fears, yet ever trusts and loves,

C: **which is ever powerful, and ever confident;**

P: Grant that through the tears of repentance I may see more clearly

C: **the brightness and glories of the saving cross.**

Quiet time to consider your sins

P: Jesus, after His resurrection, said to His disciples, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." *John 20:21-23*

The congregation is invited to nail their sins to the cross and come forward to the altar to receive absolution.

Following your absolution, you may return to your pew.

After all who have chosen to come forward have been absolved and seated, we continue . . .

Collect for Good Friday

P: 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;

C: **through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn #456 v.1 "Were You There?"

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Text: Public domain

The Passion of Jesus Christ

P: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate 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." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When 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." ⁷The 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." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So 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?" ¹¹Jesus 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."

¹²From 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." ¹³So 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. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They 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." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Hymn #456 v.2 "Were You There?"

- 2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

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¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many 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. ²¹So 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.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When 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, ²⁴so 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, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A 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. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since 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. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

³⁸After 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. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now 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. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #456 v. 3 "Were You There?"

- 3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text: Public domain

The Litany

P: O Lord,

P: O Christ,

P: O Lord,

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

C: have mercy.

C: have mercy.

C: hear us.

P: God the Father in heaven, **C: have mercy.**
P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C: have mercy.**
P: God the Holy Spirit, **C: have mercy.**

P: Be gracious to us. **C: Spare us, good Lord.**
P: Be gracious to us. **C: Help us, good Lord.**

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned,
and all who stand in our need of prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all;

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and to graciously hear our prayers;

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ, **C: hear us.**
P: O Lord, **C: have mercy.**
P: O Christ, **C: have mercy.**
P: O Lord, **C: have mercy. Amen.**

P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn #547 “The Lamb”

- 1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price! **REFRAIN**
REFRAIN: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!
- 2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing. Refrain
- 3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain
- 4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. Refrain

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The First Word

Scripture Reading John 19:14-16a; Luke 23:32-34a

It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, “Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified.

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals—one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”**

Homily & Prayer – Richard Misener, Congregational President

Hymn #447 vv. 1-3 “Jesus in Your Dying Woes”

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

- 2 Savior, for our pardon sue
When our sins Your pangs renew,
For we know not what we do:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 3 Oh, may we, who mercy need,
Be like You in heart and deed,
When with wrong our spirits bleed:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

All verses of this Hymn are Public domain

– the first pair of candles are extinguished –

The Second Word

Scripture Reading Luke 23:35-43

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, "If You are the king of the Jews, save Yourself." There was a written notice above Him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: "Aren't You the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked Him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "***I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.***"

Homily & Prayer – Pastor Adams

Hymn #447 vv. 4-6

- 4 Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief, who near You dies,
Promising him paradise:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 5 May we in our guilt and shame
Still Your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on Your name:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 6 May our hearts to You incline
And their thoughts Your cross entwine.
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

– the second pair of candles are extinguished –

The Third Word

Scripture Reading John 19:25-27

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.

Homily & Prayer – Zachary Gaulke, Elder

Hymn #447 vv.7-9

- 7 Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart Your sorrows rend,
And Your dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 8 May we in Your sorrows share,
For Your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy Your tender care:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 9 May we all Your loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving, since Your love we see:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

– the third pair of candles are extinguished –

The Fourth Word

Scripture Reading Mark 15:33-35

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at 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?” When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, He’s calling Elijah.”

Homily & Prayer – Pastor Adams

Hymn #447 vv. 10-12

- 10 Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heav’n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 11 When we seem in vain to pray
And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 12 Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

– the fourth pair of candles are extinguished –

The Fifth Word

Scripture Reading John 19:28-29

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.

Homily & Prayer – Pastor Adams

Hymn #447 vv. 13-15

- 13 Jesus, in Your thirst and pain,
While Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 14 Thirst for us in mercy still;
All Your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy Your loving will:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 15 May we thirst Your love to know.
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

– the fifth pair of candles are extinguished –

The Sixth Word

Scripture Reading Hebrews 5:7-9; John 19:30

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One Who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a son, He learned obedience from what He suffered and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Homily & Prayer – John Liebe, Elder

Hymn #447 vv. 16-18

- 16 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All Your Father's will obeyed;
By Your suff'rings perfect made:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 17 Save us in our soul's distress;
Be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 18 Brighten all our heav'nward way
With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

– the sixth pair of candles are extinguished –

The Seventh Word

Scripture Reading Luke 23:44-46; Mark 15:39

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "**Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.**" When He had said this, He breathed His last.

And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard His cry and saw how He died, he said, "Surely this Man was the Son of God!"

Homily & Prayer – Pastor Adams

Hymn #447 vv. 19-21

- 19 Jesus, all Your labor vast,
All Your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Your soul at last:
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 20 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.
- 21 May Your life and death supply
Grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

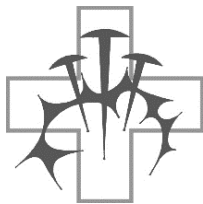
– the seventh pair of candles are extinguished –

Lord's Prayer (spoken softly)

The Christ Candle is removed during the Lord's Prayer

*During the darkness the congregation is invited to meditate silently upon Christ's suffering and death. After a time, a **loud noise** is made symbolizing the rolling of the stone into place, sealing Jesus in the tomb. The **Christ Candle** is then returned to its place, reminding us that our redemption is now complete and pointing our faith ahead to Easter morning.*

You are invited to remain for silent meditation as long as you wish.



Join us Easter at 10:30 a.m. for the Festival of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

"Yet I Sin" - Bennett, Arthur (2017, c 1975). *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions* (The Spirit's Work, pp. 30-31). East Peoria; The Banner of Truth Trust. Used by permission.