



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness

Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. In recent centuries, this monastic liturgy—despite its early morning light imagery—was transferred to Wednesday evening in Holy Week. In the monastic practice, it was a service of prayers and readings from scripture. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.

The procession of the cross and adoration of the crucified Christ become the primary symbolic action of this day. We offer honor and reverence to the one who, lifted up from the earth, draws all people to himself.

The liturgy ends with Christ exalted on the cross, an image from John's gospel.

The procession of the cross has an important connection to the procession of the paschal candle on Easter morning. More importantly, all three days of the Triduum celebrate the mystery of Jesus' dying and rising.

We Gather in Silence

English speaking Christians call this day Good. It is a day, not of unmitigated mourning, as if Jesus were dead dead dead, but of profound contemplation of the mystery that, from the cross of death, God grants the world new life. The waters of baptism flow from the cross, and our gathering is contained by the Christ's crown of thorns. Held together in the passion of Christ, we hold out our hands in prayer for all the world. Since the service is a continuation of yesterday's Maundy Thursday worship, we begin simply and silently.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer

death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

READING: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

SOLO *Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded* Sung by Elyse Boden

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN

JOHN 18:1-11

The first light is extinguished.

JOHN 18:12-27

The second light is extinguished.

JOHN 18:28-40

The third light is extinguished.

JOHN 19:1-7

The fourth light is extinguished.

JOHN 19:8-16a

The fifth light is extinguished.

JOHN 19:16b-22

The sixth light is extinguished.

JOHN 19:23-30

The seventh light is extinguished.

JOHN 19:31-42

The eighth light is extinguished.

DUET

Were You There

Sung by Cindy Daniels and Gavin Doughty
Silence for reflection

Bidding Prayers

On this day we offer prayers for the whole world, remembering the words of Jesus: "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." During the prayers, the leaders will offer a direction for prayer, then pause to give you quiet time for personal reflection and prayer. When you hear the words, "We ask this through Christ our Lord, please respond, "Amen."

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.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

The cross will pause at three points, when the following dialogue is spoken.

Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

GO TO DARK GETHESEMANE *(together we softly share)*

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power; your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned; oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet, mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

*The lights are dimmed completely. The tomb is sealed.
You are invited to stay in meditation as long as you need. All depart in silence, remembering
Christ's crucifixion, awaiting his glorious resurrection on Easter,
when we proclaim the tomb to be empty and Christ raised from the dead. May those things
which keep you from relationship with people in your life and apart from trusting God be
proclaimed gone and forgiven through Christ's death and burial.
May you rest deeply tonight trusting God is with you always,
knowing nothing can separate you from the Love God has for you.*

Worship Leaders today:

Steve Gustafson	Organist
Bryce Loder	Lector
Elyse Boden	Soloist
Cindy Daniels and Gavin Doughty	Duet