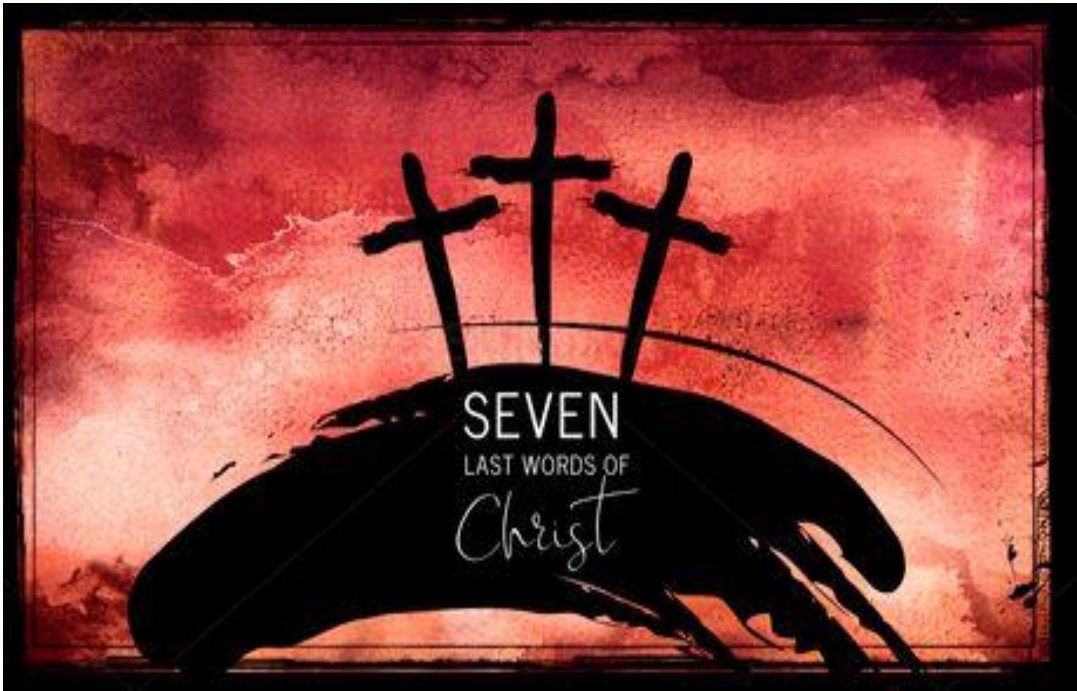


*“Into your hands I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.”
Ps. 31:5*



**Good Friday
Tenebrae
March 29, 2024
7:00pm**

THE STORY: *The Hour of Darkness*

On this day, we remember that the church gathers not to mourn but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. As we listen to scripture readings and the lights are gradually extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the "strepitus"; and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.

PRAYER CARD

If you have a Prayer Request, use the **YELLOW** card that is available in the narthex, from an usher, or in the pew racks. Ushers will collect the cards before the Sermon so that prayers can be offered during the Intercessions.

If you are visiting with us, please use the Information Update on the reverse side of the card. Include your name and address and other important information. If our congregation can assist you in any way, please put that information on the card or speak to the Pastor.

ASSISTANCE

The ushers can supply parents of small children with soft toys, books, and a weekly children's worship bulletin. The parlor (the room behind the sanctuary) has a loud speaker and window so that, if necessary, parents can use it as a cry room and still see and hear the service. Large-print editions of our worship service are also available from the ushers.

HOLY COMMUNION

Based on the teachings of Scripture and in response to the Lord's admonition that, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)," we ask that those who attend the Lord's Supper ask of themselves the following questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God's grace? (1 John 1:8-9)
2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (1 Cor. 11:26-29)
3. Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? (Romans 5:6)
4. Do you intend with the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life? (2 Cor. 5:15)
5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper? (Mark 14:22-24)
6. Do you trust God and His promises and accept as true all He teaches in Holy Scriptures? (John 8:31-32)
7. Have you been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? (Matthew 28:19-20)

If your answer to these questions is yes, then we welcome you to the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions, burdens, or doubts concerning the sacrament, please speak with the Pastor before communing. Adults and children not receiving the Body and Blood of Christ may instead come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten free rice wafers are available. Please indicate this by clearly raising your index finger. White grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine. Please inform an usher if you are unable to come to the altar; the elements will be brought to you.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29, 7pm
Tenebrae

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

THE APPROACH TO GOD

GREETING

P: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

P: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

C: His mercy endures forever.

P: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into this world, and we loved darkness rather than light.

C: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

P: For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

C: Every one that does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light. But all who do what is true come to the light.

P: Come, let us worship in spirit and truth.

543 What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
 sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.
 Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
 Text and tune: Public domain

ℙ: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, the lamb of God,

℄: who redeems us from sin and death.

ℙ: For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

C: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

PRAYER 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

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 19:14-25a

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. 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.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

426 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood,
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

THE FIRST WORD: Luke 23:32-34

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.
³³And 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. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

COMMENTARY

HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” TLH 172, st. 4
Public domain)

(Text:

**My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me,
For it was my transgression Which brought this woe on Thee.
I cast me down before Thee; Wrath were my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!**

A candle is extinguished

THE SECOND WORD: Luke 23:35-43

And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

COMMENTARY

HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” TLH 172, st. 5
Public domain)

(Text:

**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 words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heavenly joys above.**

A candle is extinguished

THE THIRD WORD: John 19:25-27

But 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.

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

COMMENTARY

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" TLH 172, st. 6
Public domain

(Text:

**Here I will stand beside Thee, From Thee I will not part;
O Savior, do not chide me! When breaks Thy loving heart,
When soul and body languish In death's cold, cruel grasp,
Then, in Thy deepest anguish, Thee in mine arms I'll clasp.**

A candle is extinguished

THE FOURTH WORD: Matthew 27:45-49

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

COMMENTARY

HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” TLH 172, st. 3
Public domain)

(Text:

**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 has lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

A candle is extinguished

THE FIFTH WORD: John 19:28-29

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”²⁹ 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.

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

COMMENTARY

HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” TLH 172, st. 7
Public domain)

(Text: Public

**The joy can ne’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.**

A candle is extinguished

THE SIXTH WORD: Luke 23:46

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.

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

COMMENTARY

HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” TLH 172, st. 8
Public domain)

(Text:

**What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
Oh, make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

A candle is extinguished

THE SEVENTH 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.

P: The word of the Lord.

☩: Thanks be to God!

COMMENTARY

HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” TLH 172, st. 10
Public domain)

(Text:

**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.**

A candle is extinguished

The Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary.

While the sanctuary is darkened, there is silence for meditation.

A loud sound is heard symbolizing the closing of the tomb.

The Christ candle is returned to the sanctuary in anticipation of the ultimate victory.

☩: May Jesus Christ who for our sakes became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you.

☩: Amen

Those who wish to remain for prayer and meditation are invited to do so.

Acknowledgments

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

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