

Welcome to Saint Michael Lutheran Church

GOOD FRIDAY

Tenebrae Service

April 3, 2026 + 6:30 pm

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What is a Tenebrae Service?

At the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service the altar and chancel were stripped and a single candelabra was set in place. It has seven candles, one for each of the seven "words" that Jesus said from the cross. The word "Tenebrae" means darkness for after each word a candle will be extinguished, causing the church to gradually darken, and symbolizing Jesus' gradual dying. After all the candles have been put out, a loud sound ("strepitus") will symbolize Jesus' death and the earthquake that followed. At the end of the service, please leave the sanctuary in silence.

(* = please stand)

PRELUDE

* PROCESSION OF THE HOLY CROSS *(please turn to face the cross)*

A: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C: **O come, let us worship the Father.**

A: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C: **O come, let us worship the Son.**

A: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C: **O come, let us worship the Holy Spirit.**

* OPENING HYMN #451: "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was willing to suffer on the cross and die, that we might always love and serve You, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

REPROACHES

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people!

C: **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed You with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people!

C: **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people!

C: **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN #450: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

BIBLE MESSAGE: "Jesus Is the Door: The Door of His Flesh" (Hebrews 10:19-25)

CHOIR: "A Lenten Meditation," words by Thomas B. Pollock, and music by Douglas E. Wagner

*** BIDDING PRAYER**

A: *Let us pray for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, for which He gave His life.*

P: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Christ and the Word of His truth, keep in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout the world, may be defended against the adversary, serve You in true faith, and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: *Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word and for all the people of God.*

P: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member may truly serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: *Let us pray for those being instructed in the Christian faith.*

P: Almighty God and Father, because You plant faith in our hearts through the water and Word of Holy Baptism, and by that same Word always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of those preparing to renew that baptismal promises in the rite of confirmation, that they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: *Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a peaceable life in all godliness.*

P: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in every nation of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, and the Mayor of this community, as well as all those who make, administer, and judge our laws, that all who serve as Your agents may exercise their office with all faithfulness according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: *Let us pray for those who have not yet received the free gift of salvation:*

P: Almighty and everlasting God, because You do not desire the death of anyone for whom Christ died but desire the life and salvation of the world, hear our prayers for all who do not have right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name and by the power of Your Gospel, bring them into the faith and the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: *Finally let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask by saying the prayer He taught us.:*

C: 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.

SOLO: "Via Dolorosa," by Sandi Patty

TENEBRAE (featuring our Lord's words from the cross as found in a compilation of all four Gospels)

I. First Word

A: It was the third hour, and there they crucified Him. Jesus said,

C: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, You indeed practiced what You preached for even as they were crucifying You, You showed love and forgiveness to Your enemies. Help us also to turn the other cheek in our personal conflicts and to forgive one another as You have forgiven us. Help us not to return evil for evil but to overcome evil with good as we live as Your disciples.

C: Amen.

Hymn #447:1-3 - "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes" (The first candle is extinguished)

II. Second Word

A: The thieves who were crucified with Jesus also reviled Him. And one of the criminals who hung there with Him railed at Him: "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 condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are getting what we deserve for what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus said to him,

C: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, while You hung dying on the cross You showed mercy to the thief who was being executed with You and who looked to You in faith. With that same mercy, look on us also as we too, with saving faith, ask You to remember us in Your kingdom. At our last hour, comfort us with that same promise that we will dwell with You forever in paradise.

C: Amen.

Hymn #447:4-6 - "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes" (*The second candle is extinguished.*)

III. Third Word

A: Near to the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother,

C: "Woman, behold your son!"

A: Then He said to the disciple,

C: "Behold your mother!"

A: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, even while You suffered the agony of the cross, You remembered in love Your sorrowing mother and Your dearest friend. With that same love and pity bless all families, especially those torn apart by death or divorce. In Your mercy, give all husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, the peace You earned on the cross, that we may love each other as You have loved us.

C: Amen.

Hymn #447:7-9 - "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes" (*The third candle is extinguished*)

IV. Fourth Word

A: About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means,

C: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, on the cross You became sin for us and therefore suffered the abandonment and the rejection by Your Father that sin causes. Because You suffered hell for us, in our time of trial and suffering do not turn away from us, but give us Your presence and Your power to withstand whatever may be set before us.

C: Amen.

Hymn #447:10-12 - "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes" (*The fourth candle is extinguished*)

V. Fifth Word

A: After this, Jesus knew that all things were accomplished. Fulfilling the Scripture He said,

C: "I thirst."

A: There was a jar of wine standing there. One of them ran immediately to get a sponge. He filled it with wine, put it on a reed, held it up to His mouth, and gave it to Him to drink.

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, what a paradoxical wonder it is that You, who came to give us living water so that we might never thirst, suffered the agony of physical and spiritual thirst in our place. Help us to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and remind us daily that in the water of our baptism our sins are washed away and that we have been buried and raised with You.

C: Amen.

Hymn #447:13-15 - "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes" (*The fifth candle is extinguished*)

VI. Sixth Word

A: When Jesus had received the wine, He cried with a loud voice,

C: "It is finished!"

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, Author and Finisher of our faith. Thank You for not stopping short of finishing the task that You were given by Your Father, but in obedience unto death, paying in full the entire debt of our sin. O Lord, be faithful to complete in us the good work that You have begun, so that we might live for Your glory here today, and tomorrow enjoy eternity with You in heaven.

C: Amen.

Hymn #447:16-18 - "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes" (*The sixth candle is extinguished*)

VII. Seventh Word

A: Then He said,

C: "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit."

A: Having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, You gave Your life on the cross in our place and peacefully commended Your Spirit to Your Father and ours. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things and, when our last hour comes, to close our eyes with the confidence that we will dwell in Your house forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn #447:19-21 - "Jesus, In Your Dying Woes" (*The seventh candle is extinguished*)

The Strepitus

A: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. . .

(a thunderous noise is sounded at this time in reflection of Jesus' death)

The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion who stood facing Him saw how He died, he said,

C: "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

(We leave the sanctuary in silence.)

Our worship continues tomorrow at the Easter Vigil at 5:00 pm.

Easter Sunrise Communion Service is at 7:30 am

Easter Morning Song Communion Service is at 11:00 am.

Assisting Minister and Preacher (A): Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann

Presiding Minister (P): Rev. Daniel Maske

Lay Ministers: Rich Conklin

Greeters: Virginia, Tammy Songer

Organist: Keith Eiser

Soloist: Laura Kuhlman

Choir Director: Carolyn Bertrand

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴ As many were astonished at you — his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind —¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush

him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.