

PREFACE TO WORSHIP

Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Christ. It is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross. In keeping with this character, music is kept to a minimum, though not silenced. Elaborate words of praise are omitted. The altar remains bare, having been stripped on Holy Thursday.

The Office of Tenebrae is an ancient Holy Week devotion, finding its beginning in the 7th or 8th century after Christ. The name "Tenebrae" means "darkness," and the service takes its name from the ceremony of extinguishing - in succession - the candles in the chancel, thus, gradually casting the sanctuary into complete darkness. This forms the end of the Good Friday celebration.

The pastor and congregation enter in silence. There is no Invocation because this service is a continuation from the Maundy Thursday service.

Opening Hymn: “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”

LSB 439, stz. 1-7, 15

stand

Opening Versicles

P O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

(Psalm 27; antiphon v. 9)



- P Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in | anger,*
O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God, of
my sal- | vation!
- C **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?
- P When evildoers assail me to eat | up my flesh,*
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stum- | ble and fall.
- C **Though an army encamp against me, my heart | shall not fear;***
though war arise against me, yet I will be | confident.
- P One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek | after:*
- 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 inquire in his | temple.
- C **For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;***
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- |
on a rock.
- P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I
will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*
- I will sing and make melody | to the Lord.
- C **Hear, O Lord, when I | cry aloud;***
be gracious to me and | answer me!
- P You have said, | “Seek my face.”*
- My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, | do I seek.”
- C **Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away**
in | anger,*
O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God,
of my sal- | vation!

P For my father and my mother have forsaken me,*
but the Lord will take me in.

**C Teach me your way, O Lord,*
and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**

P Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;*
for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

**C I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord*
in the land of the living!**

P Wait for the Lord;*
be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

**C Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away
in anger,*
O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O
God, of my salvation!**

Sit

Candles are extinguished

Office Hymn: “*Upon the Cross Extended*”

LSB 453

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

After the reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Candles are extinguished

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

After the reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Candles are extinguished

Third Reading: John 19:17-30

After the reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Candles are extinguished

Lenten Responory

(1 John 2:1-2; [Mark 10:33]; Psalm 32:1)

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Sermon Hymn: *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

LSB 450

Sermon

Offering: *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

French Horn

stand

Bidding Prayer

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

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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 all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially our President; the Congress of the United States; our Governor; and all those

who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

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.

Sit

Reproaches

(The following Reproaches are the words of the Lord against His people, the Church, to which the congregation replies with a plea for mercy.)

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and where in 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.

Candles are extinguished

Hymn: “*Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*”

LSB 434 stz. 1

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, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

Candles are extinguished

Hymn: “*Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*”

LSB 434 stz. 2

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.
Isaiah 5:2-4

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Candles are extinguished

Hymn: “*Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*”

LSB 434 stz. 3

stand

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.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son would bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord’s passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

A candle is extinguished

The strepitus consists of a loud noise. This action is interpreted as the scourging by the soldiers, the earthquake at the moment of Christ’s death, or the closing of the tomb.

Hymn: “*O Darkest Woe*”

LSB 448

The pastor and congregation leave in silence.