

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Connecting People to Christ Now and Forever

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 18, 2025 | 7:00pm
3621 Socialville-Foster Road, Mason, Ohio 45040
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Thank you for worshiping with us at King of Kings! Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will draw you closer to the living God through your time of worship today and strengthen your connection to Christ our Savior.

About This Evening's Liturgy

Since the eighth century, the Christian Church has gathered on Good Friday for Tenebrae worship. We are concluding our service this evening by using the seven last words from Christ on the cross to observe this ancient Good Friday practice.

As our Lord moves closer to His death with each sentence, the darkness will increase as light after light is extinguished. With the death and burial of our Lord, only one light is left burning – the light of God's love. It leaves and returns, signifying that Christ's death is only temporary. Finally, a loud noise will sound, representing the death of Christ or the seal of the tomb.

The Good Friday Tenebrae service causes us to reflect on the awesome sacrifice of Christ and our own response to it. Therefore, we ask that the worshipers leave the church in silence. When you are finished with your time of reflection, quietly leave the sanctuary. Please refrain from speaking until you leave the building.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Were You There by Robert Lau

Ellen Morgan, organ

Crucifixus by J.S. Bach

Rachel Kreis, piano

O Dearest Jesus by Johann Cruger, arr. Behnke

King of Kings Bell Choir

Variations on "Jesus, in His Dying Woes" arr. Kreis

Rachel Kreis, piano

When I Think of the Nail Prints by Mary Kay Beall

The King of Kings Choir

Greeting

Opening Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded – LSB 449

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, and grant to me Thy grace.

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

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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, *The Lutheran Hymnal*, Bernard of Clairvaux | Tune: Hans Leo Hassler | © 1941 Concordia Publishing House | LSB Hymn License no. 110004465
| Lutheran Service Book #449

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Address

P Fellow pilgrims, tonight we step into the suffering and death that is the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah foretold of the One who would come to bear the burden of our sin. "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." The writer to the Hebrews reminds us of what this great sacrifice means to you and me. "But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." One life for another. His life in exchange for ours. This is what we have come to witness again tonight. It is only right that we should first humble ourselves and confess our sin to God, our Father, who gave everything that we might be forgiven.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who sees and knows all things,
- C** **we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We listen to the temptations of the world around us instead of following your Word and ways. In truth it was our disobedience that nailed Your Son to the cross. With repentant hearts we turn back to You, seeking refuge in the cross and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**
- P** Dear friends, set your eyes on the cross and see the forgiveness Christ has won for you. Out of His abundant mercy and grace, God gave His Son to die and rise for you. Because Jesus shed His blood, we are forgiven. Because Jesus endured the cross, we are saved. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified Lord, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. We thank you for the blood of Jesus that covers all our sin.**

Prayer

- P** Merciful and everlasting God,
- C** **You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Apostles' Creed

- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

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; Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all comfort and peace, You are the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak. May the prayers of those caught in tribulation or distress graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are suffering through illness, pain or grief. Strengthen those who sacrifice their time to care for others. Give those who suffer and those who care for them the hope and comfort found in the promises of your Word. Open our eyes to see opportunities to serve and care for those in need; Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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; Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. 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, for You live and reign as the Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted – LSB 451

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.

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.

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.

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.

Text: Thomas Kelly | Tune: *Geistliche Volkslieder* | Lutheran Service Book #451

✠ The Service of Tenebrae ✠

P The silence and somber of this dark night is broken by the voice of Jesus as He speaks His last words from the cross. Even in suffering He cried out for forgiveness, even in death He sought to bring life. To mark this momentous occasion, the church has traditionally observed this 'service of darkness' as a way of drawing us deeper into the final hours of the life of Christ, giving us opportunity to stand at the foot of the cross. Come with me now, as we witness these final moments and reflect on these last words of Christ.

Sentences

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;
C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
P God did not spare His own Son,
C **But gave Him up for us all.**

The First Word: Luke 23:13 – 34a

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Personal Reflection

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. O innocent Jesus,
C **by false witness and lies You were condemned to death, but by Your true witness You showed us the way of life. Make us to remember how our sins, evil words and thoughts condemn us, and let us not be found false and faithless on the day when Christ returns. Amen.**

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

Verses 1-3

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

Savior, for our pardon sue when our sins Your pangs renew,
For we know not what we do: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Oh, may we, who mercy need, be like You in heart and deed,
When with wrong our spirits bleed: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock | Tune: Bernhard Schumacher | © 1941 Concordia Publishing House | Lutheran Service Book #447

A candle is extinguished and the lights are darkened

Sentences

- P** We worship You, Lord Jesus, and we lift up Your holy name;
C **By Your cross and precious death You have brought salvation to the world.**
P Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
C **O come, let us worship Him.**

The Second Word: Luke 23:34b – 43

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise”

Personal Reflection

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. O precious Savior,
C **You willingly endured the suffering and shame of the cross. Words of scorn pieced Your heart just as the nails pierced your hands and feet, yet You remained silent. Teach us to endure with patience and long suffering those who would mock us for our faith and trust in You such that they would see Your love in us. Amen.**

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

Verses 4-6

Jesus, pitying the sighs of the thief, who near You dies,
Promising him paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we in our guilt and shame still Your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on Your name: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May our hearts to You incline and their thoughts Your cross entwine.
Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock | Tune: Bernhard Schumacher | © 1941 Concordia Publishing House | Lutheran Service Book #447

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Sentences

- P** We love You, dear Lord, and we praise Your holy name;
- C** **By Your cross and precious death You have ransomed the world.**
- P** The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- C** **He was stricken, smitten, and afflicted for our transgressions.**

The Third Word: John 19:25 – 27

“Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!”

Personal Reflection

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, You have said;
- C** **"Take My yoke upon You and learn from Me; for My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Grant that, as You bore Your cross willingly for love of us, we may bear our cross for the love of You. Give us grace in every trial and temptation, and save us by Your cross and passion. Amen.**

Jesus, in His Dying Woes

Verses 7-9

Jesus, loving to the end her whose heart Your sorrows rend,
And Your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we in Your sorrows share, for Your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy Your tender care: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we all Your loved ones be, all one holy family,
Loving, since Your love we see: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock | Tune: Bernhard Schumacher | © 1941 Concordia Publishing House | Lutheran Service Book #447

A candle is extinguished and the lights are darkened

Sentences

- P** We adore You, Lord Jesus, and we bless Your name;
- C** **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
- P** Those who sow in tears, shall reap with shouts of joy.
- C** **Those who stand in darkness, shall see a great light.**

The Fourth Word: Mark 15:29 – 34

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Personal Reflection

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God,
- C** **You hate nothing that You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us a new and contrite heart, that we, lamenting our sins and holding to Your mercy, may receive full forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

Verses 10-12

Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown, with our evil left alone,
While no light from heav’n is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus.

When we seem in vain to pray and our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Though no Father seem to hear, though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock | Tune: Bernhard Schumacher | © 1941 Concordia Publishing House | Lutheran Service Book #447

A candle is extinguished and the lights are darkened

Sentences

- P** We revere You, O Lord, and we cherish Your righteous name;
- C** **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
- P** They have pierced My hands and feet.
- C** **I can count all My bones; they stare and gloat over Me.**

The Fifth Word: John 19:28

"I thirst."

Personal Reflection

Prayer

P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ,

C **You were willingly nailed to the cross for us. Crucify all that is evil in us so that we might live pure and upright lives. With Your precious blood cleanse us from all our sins, renew a right spirit within us, and strengthen our hearts to forgive. Amen.**

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

Verses 13-15

Jesus, in Your thirst and pain, while Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Thirst for us in mercy still; all Your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy Your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we thirst Your love to know. Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock | Tune: Bernhard Schumacher | © 1941 Concordia Publishing House | Lutheran Service Book #447

A candle is extinguished and the lights are darkened

Sentences

P We adore You, Lord Jesus, and we bless Your holy name;

C **By Your cross and precious death You have ransomed the world.**

P Surely He has borne our griefs and carried all our sorrows.

C **By His stripes we are healed.**

The Sixth Word: John 19:29 – 30

“It is finished.”

Personal Reflection

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Gracious and loving Father,
C **as You listened to Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the midst of His agony and suffering, so hear the cries of Your people and teach us in all humility and obedience to call on You in all our needs, trusting that You will never leave us nor forsake us. Amen.**

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

Verses 16-18

Jesus, all our ransom paid, all Your Father's will obeyed;
By Your sufferings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Save us in our soul's distress; be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Brighten all our heav'nward way with an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock | Tune: Bernhard Schumacher | © 1941 Concordia Publishing House | Lutheran Service Book #447

A candle is extinguished and the lights are darkened

Sentences

- P** We worship You, O Christ, and we magnify Your glorious name;
C **By Your cross and precious death You have brought hope to the world.**
P Christ, for our sake, became obedient to the point of death,
C **Even death on a cross.**

The Seventh Word: Luke 23:44 – 47

“Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.”

Personal Reflection

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God,
C **out of tender love toward Your creation, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to become our flesh and to suffer death on the cross. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of His patience and also be made partakers of His resurrection. Amen.**

Choral Meditation

And All the World Was Silent

The King of Kings Choir

And all the world was silent when Christ came forth to die
The sparrows ceased their singing; the sun had left the sky.
The brilliant daylight darkened as hearts with grief were bound.
Stilled by tears and sorrow, the earth made not a sound.

And all the world was silent when Christ drew his last breath.
The old and young together prayed to comfort him in death,
And with their supplications, a prayer for them as well:
"O Lord, be with us ever, in life and at our end."

Miserere Domine | *Translation: Lord, have mercy*

Text: Charlotte Lee | Music: Douglas E. Wagner | © 1997 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

A candle is extinguished and the lights are darkened

The Christ Candle is removed

The Burial of Jesus

John 19:38 – 42

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.

The Christ Candle Returns

The Lord's Prayer (*whispered in unison*)

☒ **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.**

(All leave in silence.)



**The story is not yet over.
Come and witness the good news of
the empty tomb on Easter morning.
*Resurrection Celebrations at 8:15 and 11:00am
Breakfast between services***

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