

Tenebrae Vespers

April 18, 2025

7PM

AS WE GATHER

This service is the second part of the Triduum (from the Latin for "three days") liturgies. There is no invocation today, for today we continue the worship begun yesterday. Nor will there be a benediction. Today's liturgy is an order of Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness"); in it lights are dimmed and candles extinguished as our Lord nears His death. It ends with the *Strepitus*, a loud sound signifying the closing of the tomb---in Christ's decisive moment our sins have been paid for by His innocent death.



RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

All worshipers are asked to take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle and return it to its spot when finished. If you are interested in membership, please provide a phone number or email address so that we may contact you. Thank you.

OFFERINGS will not be gathered during the service, but envelopes may be placed in the wooden box in the Welcome Center.

LIVE-STREAMING Holy Cross will live stream the Good Friday 7PM service on a link at our website (hcross.com). We provide this service for our members who cannot attend worship. The video perspective from the choir loft looks toward the altar and shows all aspects of the service from the sixth row of pews forward. This includes baptisms, children's talks, and communion.



Tenebrae Vespers

April 18, 2025

Good Friday

at 7PM

The congregation enters in silence.

All stand and face the procession.

CHOIR: Thee We Adore, O Savior (from “The Seven Last Words of Christ”)

Theodore Dubois

Thee we adore, O Savior,

Bless Thee and praise Thee forever.

For on the holy cross Thou hast the world from sin redeemed.

Thee we adore, O Savior,

Bless Thee and praise Thee forever.

OPENING VERSICLES

P O Lord, open my lips,

G and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

G make haste to help me, O Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

COLLECT 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.

G Amen.

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 *The Lord has laid on Christ the iniquity of us all.*

Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred,
beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so 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.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For 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.

³He 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.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶All 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.

⁷He 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.

⁸By 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?

⁹And 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.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out 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.

¹²Therefore 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

⁷In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

BIDDING PRAYER

Please Stand

A *Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:*

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.

A *Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, 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 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.

A *Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:*

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.**

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

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 [name], our President; the Congress of the United States; [name], 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.**

A *Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:*

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.**

A *Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:*

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.**

A *Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:*

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.**

A *Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:*

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.**

A *Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:*

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.

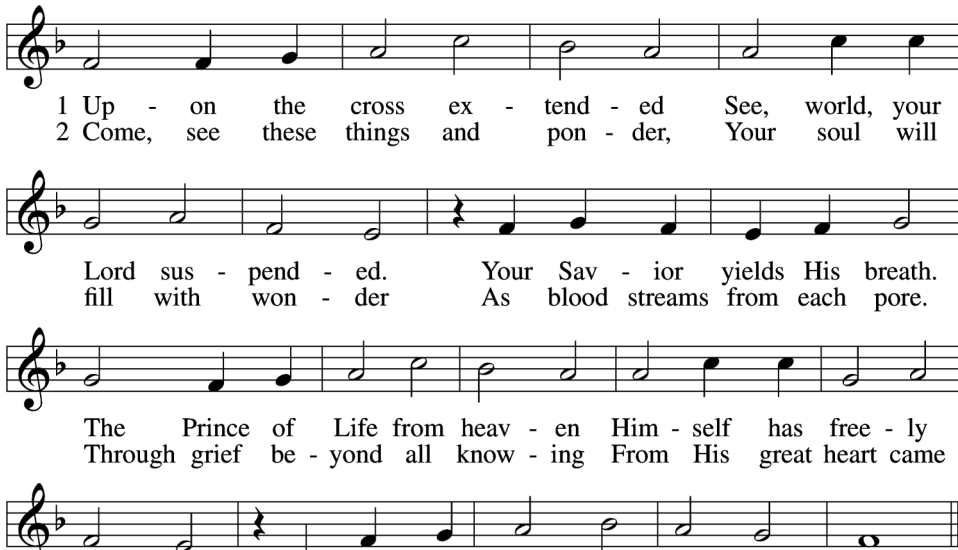
C **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Seven Last Words from the Cross

Hymn: "Upon the Cross Extended"

LSB 453, v. 1-2



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will

Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.

The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came

giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.

THE FIRST WORD: Luke 23:33-34

And 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. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments.

The first candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, in the hour of Your death You begged forgiveness for those who persecuted You. Teach us to forgive as You forgive, that we may die to sin, and walk in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

C Amen.

- 3 **Who is it, Lord, that bruised You?
Who has so sore abused You
And caused You all Your woe?
We all must make confession
Of sin and dire transgression
While You no ways of evil know.**
- 4 **I caused Your grief and sighing
By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered
With which Your soul is cumbered,
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.**
- 5 **Your soul in griefs unbounded,
Your head with thorns surrounded,
You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing,
You healed my wounds and set me free.**

HOMILY

THE SECOND WORD: Luke 23:38-43

There was also an inscription over Him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "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 sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

The second candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, in the hour of Your death You remembered the thief and gave the promise of paradise. Teach us to follow you, that we may die to sin, and walk in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus, Remember Me"

LSB 767

After the introduction, the choir sings the song once through.

The congregation then repeats the song several times thereafter.

The final repetition of the song will be sung unaccompanied.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to your king - dom.

THE THIRD WORD: John 19:25–27

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.

The third candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, in the hour of Your death You thought of others and cared for their needs. Teach us to deny ourselves, that we may die to sin, and walk in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

C Amen.

Hymn: "Upon the Cross Extended"

LSB 453, v. 6-7

6 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to;
7 Your cross I place be - fore me; Its sav - ing
You for - ev - er, I am no long - er mine.
pow'r re - store me, Sus - tain me in the test.
To You I glad - ly ten - der All that my life can -
It will, when life is end - ing, Be guid - ing and at -
ren - der And all I have to You re - sign.
tend - ing My way to Your e - ter - nal rest.

THE FOURTH WORD: Mark 15:33-34

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, in the hour of Your death You bore the consequences for our sin, and endured the separation we chose. By Your Spirit, draw us ever closer to the Father, that we may die to sin, and walk in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

G Amen.

Hymn: "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

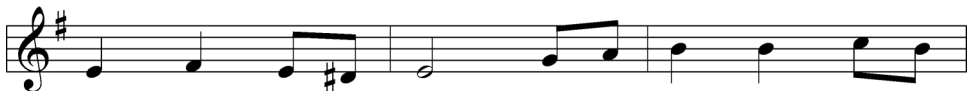
LSB 451



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

THE FIFTH WORD: John 19:28

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

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, in the hour of Your death You fulfilled the promises of God. Keep us always mindful of Your promises, that we may die to sin, and walk in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

C Amen.

Hymn: "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"

LSB 439, v.1-4



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -
The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
her - it, This I do mer - it.
owe Him, Who would not know Him.

THE SIXTH WORD: John 19:29-30

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. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, in the hour of Your death You completed all that we could not. Teach us to trust in Your completed work, that we may die to sin, and walk in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

C Amen.

Choir: O Wondrous Love

David von Kampen

O wondrous Love, what have You done!

The Father offers up His Son,

Desiring our salvation.

O Love, how strong You are to save!

You lay the One into the grave

Who built the earth's foundation.

- Paul Gerhardt

HOMILY

THE SEVENTH 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.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, in the hour of Your death You committed Yourself to the care of your Father. Teach us to commit our whole selves to the same loving Father, that we may die to sin, and walk in newness of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

C Amen.

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 449



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weigh'd down,
2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer'd Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,
4 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?
Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,
Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.
My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

RESPONSORY

Please Stand

- 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 179

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should 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.**

The final candle is then extinguished.

After a brief time, a loud noise (the Strepitus) is heard, symbolizing the closing of the tomb, the earthquake at the time of Christ's death, and the "closing of the book" on Jesus' sacrifice.

The bell will toll 33 times, once for each year of our Lord's earthly life.

When the ringing is finished, you may remain for meditation and reflection as long as you wish. When you leave, please leave in silence.

The service continues tomorrow at 7PM with the Vigil of Easter.

Easter Festival services are on Sunday morning at 7, 9, and 11AM.

Donuts and fellowship in the gym between Easter services.

PLEASE EXIT IN SILENCE

Join Us For Easter Worship

Saturday, April 19, 2025

EASTER VIGIL, 7PM + CONFIRMATION

EASTER Sunday, April 20, 2025

EASTER WORSHIP with Communion at all services

7AM, 9AM, & 11AM EASTER WORSHIP

ALL SERVICES WILL BE IN THE SANCTUARY

*Donuts & fellowship in gym between services
No Sunday School or Bible Study.*

Serving in God's House Today Tenebrae Vespers

Preacher	Pastor Jason P. Kohm
Liturgist	Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel
Music Director	David Gilson
Musicians	Holy Cross Adult Choir Andy Goodman, accompanist Kristin Holz Brinn Miller Jamie Gibbs Brody Van Wave
Elder	Don Wischmeyer
Ushers	Refer to Elder

Acknowledgments

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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Cover: It is finished. www.pinterest.com

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P. 11: Jesus, Remember Me Tune: Jacques Berthier

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Preschool

*With the help of God,
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
grows disciples
and transforms hearts
for Christ.*

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