

Tenebrae Vespers

April 3, 2026

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.

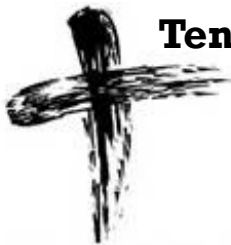


RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

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 3, 2026

Good Friday

at 7PM

The congregation and pastor enter in silence.

All stand and face the procession.

CHOIR: Drop, Drop, Slow Tears

Orlando Gibbons

In this 1500s hymn for Holy Week, we find ourselves in the place of the woman who anointed Jesus' feet, but instead of anointing with oil, we anoint with our tears, repentant of our sins that put Jesus on the cross.

*Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet,
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.*

*Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.*

*In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

- Phineas Fletcher

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.**

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.
- C** **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 Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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 Crucifixion: John 19:16b-22

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

¹⁸There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

²⁰Many 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. ²¹So 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.'"

²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

The first candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great

humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

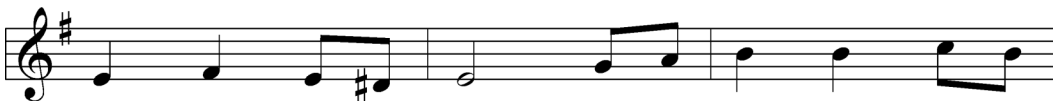
LSB 451



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.

Father, Forgive Them: Luke 23:34–35

³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide His garments. ³⁵And 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!”

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 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.

Aria: “Erbarme Dich” from St. Matthew Passion

Johann Sebastian Bach

Though this aria follows the denial of Peter in Bach's original Passion, it is a fitting reflection on the words of Jesus from the cross, "Father, forgive them."

*Erbarme dich, mein Gott,
Um meiner Zähren Willen!
Schau hier, Herz und Auge
Weint vor dir bitterlich.
Erbarme dich, erbarme dich!*

*Have mercy, my God,
for the sake of my tears!
Look here, heart and eyes
weep bitterly before you.
Have mercy, have mercy!*

Homily

Jesus' Mother and Disciple: 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. 5-7



5 Your soul in griefs un - bound - ed, Your head with
6 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to
7 Your cross I place be - fore me; Its sav - ing



thorns sur - round - ed, You died to ran - som me.
You for - ev - er, I am no long - er mine.
pow'r re - store me, Sus - tain me in the test.



The cross for me en - dur - ing, The crown for me se -
To You I glad - ly ten - der All that my life can
It will, when life is end - ing, Be guid - ing and at -



cur - ing, You healed my wounds and set me free.
ren - der And all I have to You re - sign.
tend - ing My way to Your e - ter - nal rest.

I Thirst: John 19:28-29

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A 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.

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 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, sts. 1-5



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!
5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



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;
The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



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
Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -



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.
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

The Death of Jesus: John 19:30

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

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 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: “God So Loved the World”

John Stainer

*God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.*

- John 3:16-17

Jesus' Side is Pierced: John 19:31-37

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.”

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LSB 449



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered 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.

Jesus' Burial: 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.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

O God, creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested, so may we await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Choir: Lord, Let at Last Thine Angels Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

The following chorale is the concluding movement of Bach's St. John Passion. Just as Jesus' tomb was only temporary, so too is our tomb, from which we will be one day raised because of Christ's work for us on the cross.

*Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.*

*And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end!*

- Martin Schalling

Kyrie

Please Stand

P Lord, have mercy.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Christ, have mercy.
C **Christ, have mercy.**

P Lord, have mercy.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

—service continues next page

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 and with Easter Sunday services at 7, 9, and 11AM.

Easter Breakfast will be served from 7AM to 11AM in the gym.

PLEASE EXIT IN SILENCE

Serving in God's House Today
Tenebrae Vespers: April 3, 2026

Preacher	Pastor Jason P. Kohm
Liturgist	Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel
Music Director	David Gilson
Choir	Holy Cross Adult Choir
Strings	Drake Nagle Kristin Holz Jamie Gibbs Cecily Johnson
Soloist	Brinn Miller
Elder	Don Wischmeyer
Ushers	Refer to Elder

Acknowledgments

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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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