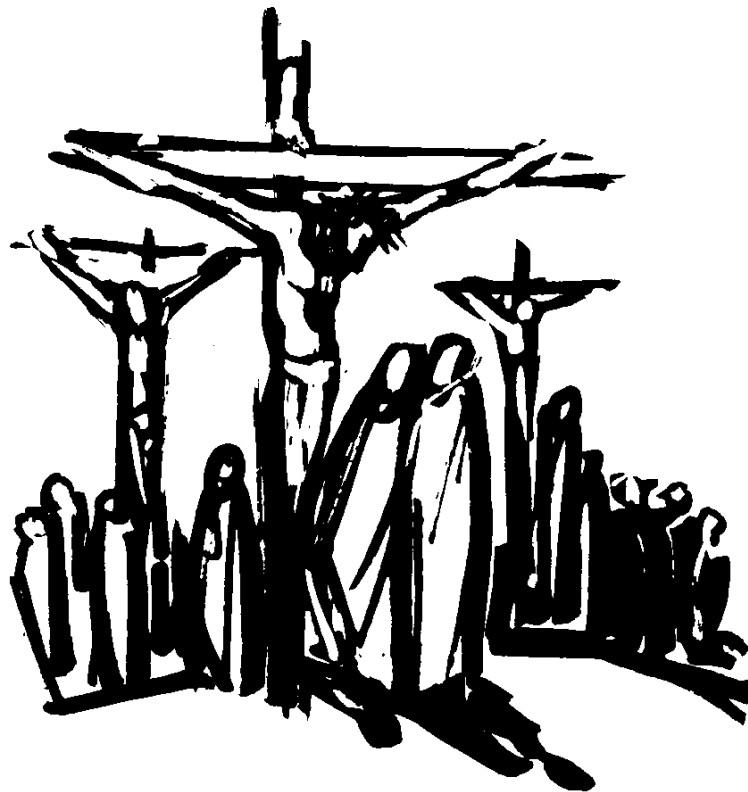


The Way of Sorrows

A Tenebrae Service for Good Friday



Please come and leave in silence.

The Way of Sorrows

A Tenebrae Service for Good Friday

P Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

ELW 347

In the steps our Savior trod
Let us follow faithfully,
Where the sinless Son of God
Went to set us sinners free,
Mark each footstep in the strife
Of the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Jesus is Condemned

Isaiah 53:8

He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate. He was put to death for the sins of our people.

Luke 23:13-25

Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought this man to me and said that he was misleading the people. Now, I have examined him here in your presence, and I have not found him guilty of any of the crimes you accuse him of. Nor did Herod find him guilty, for he sent him back to us. There is nothing this man has done to deserve death. So I will have him whipped and let him go.” The whole crowd cried out, “Kill him! Set Barabbas

free for us!” (*Barabbas had been put in prison for a riot that had taken place in the city, and for murder.*)

Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he appealed to the crowd again. But they shouted back, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them the third time, “But what crime has he committed? I cannot find anything he has done to deserve death! I will have him whipped and set him free.” But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices that Jesus should be crucified, and finally their shouting succeeded. So Pilate passed the sentence on Jesus that they were asking for. He set free the man they wanted, the one who had been put in prison for riot and murder, and he handed Jesus over for them to do as they wished.

Psalm 17 (*read responsively*)

- L Hear me out, God! Listen to my case: I speak the truth. You be my judgment!
- C **Search my heart; search it in the darkness of night. Test me with fire. See my innocence.**
- L I speak no evil. I have kept your word, walking steadfastly in your path.
- C **My feet have not stumbled.**
- L I call out to you, God, for you will hear me.
- C **Listen! Hear what I have to say. Show your great love, O saving God.**
- L Let me flee to you.
- C **Let me be your beloved, sheltering beneath your wings, safe from wicked brutes.**
- L My enemies hem me in, craving my flesh. There is no pity in them, only boastful words.
- C **They draw near like ravenous lions, crouched, ready to spring, eyes fixed upon me, eager for the kill.**
- L But my reward is to behold your face;
- C **It is enough for me to awake in your presence.**

Jesus Carries His Cross

Isaiah 53:7

“He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word.

John 19:16-17a

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took charge of Jesus. He went out, carrying his cross.

Psalm 55

L Hear me, God! Do not turn away!

C Listen! Answer me! Grief cuts me to the core.

L See me shudder at the enemy's shouts, at the jeers of the wicked.

C Hear their twisted lies and spiteful curses.

L My heart quivers, stricken by death's terrors;

C Fear has me in its grip, and I tremble.

L I pray for wings like a dove to fly far, far away.

C I would flee to the wilderness and build a nest there.

L There I would rest from this tempest, God,

C There, far from raging tongues.

L It was my friends who turned on me, not some foe I could shrug off, but close friends.

C We used to pray together.

L See their wickedness, God. See how they befriend evil.

C I cry out to you, morning, noon and night. I complain bitterly.

L But you have listened, God. You have heard my case.

C You break their power over me, saving God. You give me peace.

L Take my burdens, God; save me from stumbling.

C I will trust in you always.

Jesus Falls Beneath His Cross

Isaiah 53:2b-4, 11b

He had no dignity or beauty to make us take notice of him. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him. We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him - we ignored him as if he were nothing. But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them.

Psalm 38

- L God, in your great anger do not chastise or punish me.
C **Your arrows have struck deep; your hand weighs heavily upon me.**
L Because of your rage, my flesh wastes away;
C **Because of my sin, my bones grow brittle.**
L I am bent by guilt, burdened by the load; my wounds reek and fester.
C **Broken by folly, I walk in sorrow, grieving all the day long.**
L My flesh burns, consumed by fever.
C **Bruised and stamped upon, I cry out, groaning from the heart.**
L Lord, you see all secrets, you hear my sighs.
C **My heart breaks, all my strength has fled, even my eyes grow dim.**
L Friends shrink from my wounds; relatives keep their distance.
C **Enemies set snares, hatch plots, threaten death.**
L But I am deaf to their words, silent at their taunts.
C **I am like one who, hearing nothing, gives no answer.**
L For it is you I trust, my God, you who can answer them.
C **Stop their gloating and boasting when I stumble.**
L God, do not leave me alone. Do not abandon me.
C **Come, quickly save me, O God, my God.**

Simon Helps Carry the Cross

Isaiah 53:11b

My devoted servant, with who I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them.

Luke 23:26

The soldiers led Jesus away, and as they were going, they met a man from Cyren named Simon who was coming into the city from the country. They seized him, put the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Psalm 25 (*read responsively*)

- L I worship you, my God, I trust you; save me from disgrace, from the jeers of my foes.
C **It is those who break faith who are the fools, not the ones who wait for you.**
L Show me your path, God. Teach me, guide me, lead me in truth,
C **For you are my God. I have waited for you all day.**

L Remember your tenderness, your endless love,
C And forget the sins of my youth, my frailties. Because of your goodness, remember me, God.

L You show sinners the straight road, leading the poor to justice.
C Those who keep your law walk in kindness and truth. For the sake of your name, forgive me.

L I love you, O God. Show me the way I should choose, the path of blessing.
C You are a friend to those who love you, to those who cherish your law.

L I fix my eyes upon you,
C For you will free me from the trap.

L Look at me, God; pity me. I am sad and alone.
C Lighten my heart, my heavy burden. Heal my festering wounds.

L Let me shelter in you. Give me integrity for a shield because I wait for you.
C Rescue me, God, from all my troubles.

Jesus Meets the Women

Isaiah 52:14-15

Many people were shocked when they saw him; he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human. But now many nations will marvel at him, and kings will be speechless with amazement. They will see and understand something they had never known.

Luke 23:27-31

A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children. For the days are coming when people will say, ‘How lucky are the women who never had children, who never bore babies, who never nursed them!’ That will be the time when people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Hide us!’ For if such things as these are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Psalms 4 (*read responsively*)

L God, my justice, answer me.
C Comfort me in my distress; in your kindness hear me.

L The narrow-hearted close me out;
C Steeped in lies, they chase false gods.

L I say to them, “Know that God protects me; God hears when I cry out.”

- C** I say to them, “Tremble. Sin no more. Spend the night in prayer. Trust God. Make justice your sacrifice.”
- L** They say, “Who will bring happiness? Let the light of God’s face shine on us!”
- C** God, you bring me richer joy than al their grain and wine. I fall asleep peacefully, secure in your love.

Jesus is Stripped

Isaiah 53:6

All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.

John 19:23-24

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took the robe, which was made of one piece of woven cloth without any seams in it. The soldiers said to one another, “Let’s not tear it; let’s throw dice to see who will get it.” This happened in order to make the scripture come true: “They divided my clothes among themselves and gambled for my robe.” And this is what the soldiers did.

Psalms 31 (*read responsively*)

- L** I shelter in you, God; take away my shame.
- C** **Save me! Set me free! Listen! Come quickly!**
- L** Be my rock of safety, my stronghold, my fortress.
- C** **God, my rock, I call on your name! Lead me! Guide me!**
- L** Untangle me from the net; draw me close to you.
- C** **I place myself in your hands, God, my safety. I trust you; I delight in your love, in your faithfulness, O God.**
- L** You saw my pain, my wounded spirit;
- C** **You saved me from the cage and set me free.**
- L** Pity me, God. Grief grips me; misery strangles me.
- C** **There is so much pain - the years are filled with sighs. I grow weak! How brittle are my bones!**
- L** Enemies hunt me down. Neighbors scoff and scorn.
- C** **My friends desert me, avoiding my gaze as though I am a corpse, one of the damned.**
- L** But I trust you, God; I am yours alone.
- C** **Let your love shine upon me, now and always.**

- L Let those who love you know your embrace. Let them see your justice.
C **Teach them to take heart, to trust in you, O God.**

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Mark 15:22-25

They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means, “The Place of the Skull.” There they tried to give him wine mixed with a drug called myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it. Then they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

“The Seven Last Words”

- L Our Savior speaks in grace with words of mercy true:
P *“Forgive them, Father,”*
L thus he prays;
P *“They know not what they do.”*
L His wondrous pity see! Unto the thief he cries:
P *“Today, I tell you, you will be with me in paradise.”*
L To Mary, looking on,
P *“Behold your son,”*
L he says.
P *“Behold your mother,”*
L thus on John, love’s burden gently lays.

Solo - sung by Roger Bokano

- L Now hear the awful cry, sins’ dreadful burden see.
P *“My God, my God,”*
L the Son shouts,
P *“Why have you forsaken me?”*
L As one of us he dies. Sin’s power has done its worst.
From hell’s dread agony he cries a simple word:
P *“I thirst.”*

P *"It is finished,"*
L says the Lord. The burden on him is laid
 of sinful thought and deed and word - the debt is fully paid.
P *"Father, into your hands my spirit I commend."*
L And he who hears and understands receives him at the end.

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Isaiah 53:5

Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did and do. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.

John 19:30b-37

Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Then the Jewish authorities asked Pilate to allow them to break the legs of the men who had been crucified, and to take the bodies down from the crosses. They requested this because it was Friday, and they did not want the bodies to stay on the crosses on the Sabbath, since the coming Sabbath was especially holy. So the soldiers went and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other man who had been crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they did not break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, plunged his spear into Jesus' side, and at once blood and water poured out. *(The one who saw this happen has spoken of it, so that you also may believe. What he said is true, and he knows that he speaks the truth.)* This was done to make the scripture come true: "Not one of his bones will be broken." And there is another scripture that says, "People will look at him whom they pierced."

Psalm 16 *(read responsively)*

L Keep me, God. You are my safety, my only happiness. I delight in fidelity.

C **Those who chase other gods bring troubles upon themselves. When they pour out blood offerings and praise the names of idols, I will not join them.**

L You, God, are all I have; everything depends on you.

C **You guide me; you teach my heart, O God.**

L I will bless you.

C **I will think of you always, mindful of your presence, O God my strength.**

- L You will not abandon me or leave me among the dead.
C **No, you will lead me to life, to endless joy, at your right hand, forever.**

Jesus is Taken from the Cross

Isaiah 53:10a, 11a

It was the will of the Lord that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness... After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain.

Mark 15:42-46a

It was toward evening when Joseph of Arimathea arrived. He was a respected member of the Council, who was waiting for the coming of the Kingdom of God. It was Preparation Day (*that is, the day before the Sabbath*), so Joseph went boldly into the presence of Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead. He called the army officer and asked him if Jesus had been dead a long time. After hearing the officer's report, Pilate told Joseph he could have the body. Joseph bought a linen cloth, took the body down, wrapped it in the cloth.

Psalm 46 (*read responsively*)

L God of shelter, God of strength, saving God: Even if the earth shudders, even if mountains tumble into sea depths, making the waters churn and seethe, we shall not be afraid.

C **You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!**

L Joy streams through your city, through your sacred dwelling.

C **You are with us, God; the city cannot fall.**

L At dawn you scatter the enemy; kingdoms topple, earth crumbles at the sound of your voice.

C **You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!**

L Come, let us see God's wonders, God's saving deeds!

C **He breaks the bow, snaps the spear, burns the shield, stamps out war.**

L "Be still!" says God. "Know that I hold power over all peoples."

C **You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!**

Jesus Is Buried

Isaiah 53:9

He was placed in a grave with evil men, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie.”

John 19:41-42

There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been put to death, and in it there was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. Since it was the day before the Sabbath and because the tomb was close by, they placed Jesus' body there.

Choir Anthem

The Prayer

(The Pastor speaks the prayer softly.)

P Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; *(these words are whispered:)* who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(The congregation stands and whispers The Lord's Prayer.)

**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.**

*As the **Christ Candle** is carried from the sanctuary, **Isaiah 53:12** is read.*

P And so I will give him a place of honor, a place among the great and powerful. He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of the evil. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven.

The sound of the **strepitus** is heard, a harsh noise signifying the closing of the tomb and the earthquake. *(This is often done by slamming shut a large book.)*

*Then the **Christ Candle** is brought back into the sanctuary, in anticipation of our Lord's resurrection.*

Let us leave the sanctuary in silence.