

Good Friday Worship: Tenebrae

April 6, 2012

The word tenebrae means “darkness” and refers to a worship service in which the progressive extinguishing of candles represent the approaching death of Christ. The Tenebrae service is one of prolonged meditation of the suffering of Christ. The service is divided into seven chief parts. The division is modeled after the seven-recorded statements of Christ from the cross. At the end of each part the sanctuary will become darker. At the end of the service, the church will be very dark. No offering will be taken during the service. As you leave in complete silence you may place your offering in the plate at the back of the church.



STAND

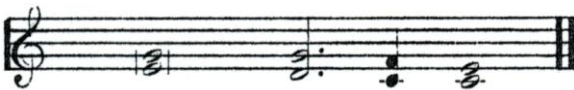
M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord



Who made heaven and earth.

M: I said, “I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.”



And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for them and sincerely repent of them. I pray that out of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, you be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

M: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my

Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of ✠ the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - - men.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. . . A - - - - - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us.

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (CW 139)

“Upon the Cross Extended” (CW 113)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how much our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there actually is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C: Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.

M: Today we are reminded not only of your justice but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings.

C: When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross, where our guilt was washed away in Jesus’ blood.

M: Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt that we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven.

C: For being our perfect substitute, we thank you, Lord Jesus.

M: Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin and commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love.

C: Give us the courage to face death, knowing that it is the gate to our home in heaven.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we offer our personal thanks for the forgiveness that you have given us and for the home that you have won for us.

Silent prayer.

M: The cross was once an instrument of death. It is now a sign of life.

C: Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and of your love. Amen.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORD

God Foretold Good Friday Long Ago

God foretold Good Friday in detail through his prophets

HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (CW 98)

God foretold that the Savior would be scorned and despised

Psalm 22:6

I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

John 19:4-6,15-16

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."...But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

The first candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus (CW 117:1-4)

God foretold that the Savior would be mocked and insulted

Psalm 22:7-8

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

Matthew 27:27-31,41-44

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him... In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will

believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The second candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus (CW 117:5-7)

God foretold that the Savior would be surrounded and pierced

Psalm 22:16-18

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

Matthew 27:35-40

When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

The third candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (CW 129)

God foretold that the Savior would be poured out like water

Psalm 22:14-15

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

John 19:28-29

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

HYMN

Glory Be To Jesus (CW 103)

God foretold that the Savior would be forsaken

Psalm 22:1

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (CW 127)

God foretold that the Savior would die confident of life.

Psalm 22:19-24

But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

CHOIR

He Loved Them To The End

The seventh candle is carried from the chancel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Silence for meditation.

A loud noise representing the opening of Christ's tomb is heard and the seventh candle is returned to burn in the chancel. These two actions lead our focus from Good Friday towards the promise of Easter.

The minister exits the chancel.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

The service concludes with no blessing or postlude because Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are one continuous service of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection

Communion is a part of worship today. Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.

If it is possible and convenient to you, please return the service folder to the stands by the doors in the rear of church as you leave. They will be used on Saturday evening and Sunday and may be taken home Sunday.

The Three Holy Days continues on Saturday. Easter Vigil worship will be at 7:30 p.m. Communion will be a part of worship.