

THE SERVICE OF DARKNESS

TENEBRAE

APRIL 18, 2025



*St. Paul Lutheran Church:
Being the Greater Force in the World.
Winning Souls for Heaven.
Keeping each other Faithful and True.*

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St. Paul

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Bell Prelude

“Crucifixion”

Hall

✠ THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Adoration of the Cross

Sung three times

(Please face the cross as it is carried in procession. The response is sung three times.)

Leader

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the world.

Assembly

Oh, come, let us wor - ship him.

Response

“Upon the Cross Extended”

LSB 453 st. 1

♩ Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended. Your Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven Himself has freely given To shame and blows and bitter death.

Confession and Absolution

P The hour has come. And in this hour we come in sorrow. We come in shame. We come seeking His forgiveness, strength, and mercy...

C We remember the day of our Savior’s death.

P We mourn and struggle to understand the depth of Christ’s love...

Father, our hearts are heavy as we gather in the name of Your Son, bearing witness to the terror of His crucifixion, knowing painfully well that we put Him there! We stand desperate, in need of Your forgiveness, Your life, and Your salvation.

C It was the Lord’s will to crush Jesus.

P At times, we have failed to strive against evil in the world.

C It was the Lord’s will to cause Jesus to suffer.

P At times, we have denied our Lord.

C Jesus poured out His life unto death.

P At times, we have betrayed our Lord.

C Jesus was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sins of many.

P Have mercy on us Lord

C and grant us forgiveness. Amen.

P Almighty God, graciously bestow Your favor upon this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed. Grant that we may genuinely cherish Jesus’ willingness to be given into the hands of sinners,

C to suffer torment upon a cross,

- P** and even to die,
C **that we may have abundant and eternal life,**
P through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**
P Upon this your confession, by the precious blood of Jesus our Lord, I speak these words to you from God Himself: I forgive you your sins and I remember them no more.
C **Amen.**

Choral Anthem

"Agnus Dei" Snyder

Death in Motion

- L** It was early in the morning. After praying to the Father that he would execute his will, he peered over the heads of the sleeping disciples to see his death in motion. With lanterns, swords, and soldiers came this announcement:
P "the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." (Mark 14:41)

Response

"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"

LSB 439 st. 1

♩ O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken? Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, What dark transgression?

Introit

Psalm 38:1-4, 18, 22; antiphon: Isaiah 53:5

- P** 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.

Men: *O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,*

Women: ***nor discipline me in Your wrath!***

Men: *For Your arrows have sunk into me,*

Women: ***and Your hand has come down on me.***

Men: *There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation;*

Women: ***there is no health in my bones because of my sin.***

Men: *For my iniquities have gone over my head;*

Women: ***like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.***

Men: *I confess my iniquity;*

Women: ***I am sorry for my sin.***

C **Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!**

- P** 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.



SERVICE OF DARKNESS – THE OFFICE OF TENEBRÆ



‡ ***The First Candle is Extinguished*** ‡

A Cry

- P** How courageously you faced the hour of your betrayal. How you gave, even when you were being taken away to die. To your father, you gave your obedience. To your disciples, you gave a plea for their escape. To your betrayer, you gave a kind word. To your enemy, you gave your healing. To your captures, you gave your own life. Give also to me, Lord, I beg. For I, like Peter, have defended you carelessly. Like Mark, I've hidden in the bushes in the moment of truth. Like James, I ran. But if I looked in the recesses of my heart, buried in shame, I will find myself all too much like Judas- a betrayer.

Response

“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”

LSB 439 st. 2

**♪ They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee; With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.**

Passion Reading

John 18:1-27

L When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them,

P *Whom do you seek?*

L They answered Him,

C **Jesus of Nazareth.**

P *I am He.*

L Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. So He asked them again,

P *Whom do you seek?*

C **Jesus of Nazareth.**

P *I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go.*

L This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

P *Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?*

L So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people. Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter,

Women: You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?

Men: I am not.

L Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.

P *I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said.*

L When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?"

P *If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?*

L Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him,

Women: You also are not one of His disciples, are you?

Men: I am not.

L One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

Women: Did I not see you in the garden with Him?

L Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Response

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451 sts. 1-2

♪ 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.

You 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; It's the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

A Cry

P Touch my heart, O Heart that was once so wounded. Give me eyes to see royalty beneath the most incomprehensible of robes. Help me see what Pilate failed to see. That you are truth, the only truth that will ever matter. I am so sorry, Jesus, so very, very sorry for all you suffered at the hands of those you loved so deeply. Forgive my fingerprints on those hands that hurt you, for something unspeakable in me was in them. And something of them is in me, even now...

Hymn

“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” *LSB 439 sts. 4-5, 7*

♪ What punishment so strange is suffered yonder! The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander; The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness; The sinful child of man may live in gladness; Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.

O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded, That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!

All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying While Thou wert dying.

✠ The Second Candle is Extinguished ✠

Suffering Servant Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:3

- P** Centuries earlier the prophet Isaiah wrote in poetic form about the time when God's Servant would be rejected by men.
- P** Behold, My Servant shall act wisely;
- C** **He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.**
- P** As many were astonished at you---
- C** **His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind---**
- P** so shall He sprinkle many nations;
- C** **kings shall shut their mouths because of Him;**
- P** for that which has not been told them they see,
- C** **and that which they have not heard they understand.**
- P** Who has believed what he has heard from us?
- C** **And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**
- P** For He grew up before Him like a young plant,
- C** **and like a root out of dry ground;**
- P** He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him,
- C** **and no beauty that we should desire Him.**
- P** He was despised and rejected by men;
- C** **a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;**
- P** and as one from whom men hide their faces
- C** **He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.**

Choral Anthem

“Behold the Savior of Mankind”

Sadowski

Passion Reading

John 18:28-19:11

- L** Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said,
- V** What accusation do you bring against this man?
- C** **If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you.**
- V** Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law.
- C** **It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.**
- L** This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him,
- V** Are You the King of the Jews?
- P** *Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?*
- V** Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?
- P** *My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world.*
- V** So you are a king?
- P** *You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--- to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.*
- V** What is truth?
- L** After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them,
- V** I find no guilt in Him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?
- C** **Not this man, but Barabbas!**
- L** Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his Head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying,
- C** **Hail, King of the Jews!**
- L** and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them,
- V** See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.
- L** So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.
- V** Behold the Man!
- L** When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out,
- C** **Crucify Him, crucify Him!**
- V** Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.
- C** **We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God.**
- L** When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus,
- V** Where are You from?
- L** But Jesus gave him no answer.
- V** You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?
- P** *You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin.*

Response

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450

♪ **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.**

Prayer

- P** Lord, count me among the throng, those who waved branches or laid coats in that once great procession into Jerusalem. What a day that must have been, and how proud I would have been to see you. Hail!

Hosanna!, we sing. But, Father in heaven, forgive me for falling so fast. We talk about Sunday's "Hosanna!" becoming Friday's "Crucify!", when I know- all too well- that five days gives me too much credit. My descent from songs of victory to sins of vulgarity comes more quickly than I would usually care to admit. Lord, count me among the mob, and please know how sorry I am that you would see me there...

Solemn Reproaches

(based on Micah 6 and Isaiah 5)

Cantor: O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People:

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People:

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People:

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People:

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

✠ ***The Third Candle is Extinguished*** ✠

A Cry

P It wouldn't be enough. It wouldn't matter what Pilate said. All that mattered were the shrieks of the mob. "We have no king!" they exclaimed. They knew exactly what they were doing. And Jesus, the King of kings, knew exactly what was about to happen.

Response

"Were You There"

LSB 456 sts. 1-2

**♩ Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh—sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

**Oh—sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

Passion Reading

John 19:12-22

- L** From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out,
- C** **If you release this Man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.**
- L** So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,
- V** Behold your King!
- C** **Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!**
- V** Shall I crucify your King?
- L** The chief priests answered,
- C** **We have no king but Caesar.**
- L** So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified

Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many 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. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

- C** Do not write, "The King of the Jews," but rather, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."
- V** What I have written I have written.

Response

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

LSB 437 sts. 1-2, 4

**♪ Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears, Dissolve my heart in
thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.**

✠ *The Fourth Candle is Extinguished* ✠

Passion Reading

John 19:23-24

- L** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another,
- C** Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.
- L** This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

Hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB 425

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and

Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and

count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?

✠ *The Fifth Candle is Extinguished* ✠

Passion Reading

Psalms 22:1, 7-8, 14-18

- L** When David was being pursued by Saul, it seemed a time in which God had forsaken him. Jesus experienced a time of true desertion by His Father when He carried our sins to the cross.
- P** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- C** Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- P** All who see me mock me;
- C** they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- P** "He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver him;

C let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!"

P I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

C my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

P my strength is dried up like a potsherd,

C and my tongue sticks to my jaws; You lay me in the dust of death.

P For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

C they have pierced my hands and feet ---

P I can count all my bones---

C they stare and gloat over me;

P they divide my garments among them,

C and for my clothing they cast lots.

Response

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450 st. 2

♪ **How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

✠ *The Sixth Candle is Extinguished* ✠

Passion Reading

John 19:25-42

L So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother,

P *Woman, behold, your son!*

L Then He said to the disciple,

P *Behold, your mother!*

L And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),

P *I thirst.*

L 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,

P *It is finished,*

L and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

{A Moment of Silence...}

Prayer

P Dear Man of Sorrows, Who, with the weight of your body pulling against those nails and the weight of the world's sin pulling against your soul,

C You thought more of the sorrows of others than your own.

P You, Lord, Who was stripped of everything,

C yet still found so much to give;

P To you executioners,

C forgiveness;

P To a thief,

C Paradise;

P To your mother,

C a son.

P Even the tortures of a cruel Roman cross couldn't distract you from giving and forgiving. In spite of you suffering,

C still you cared, still you gave, still you put the needs of others before Your own.

P Grant us the grace, O Jesus, to see at the cross such a picture of love that I would never forget

C the depth of your love.

P Help us never to forget, Lord, that this is where we need to be—near the cross—beholding our Savior. For this is the fountain where love is most pure. This is where we are cleansed, not only from our sin but from our shallowness. This is where we are closest to You.

C **Bring me here daily, Jesus.**

P For this is where love is... in its first breath, and in its final breath.

Response

tune LSB 446

♪ **Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded On the cross His dying breath.**

✠ *The Seventh Candle is Extinguished* ✠

The Burial

John 19:38-42

After 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. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now 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. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Response

"Were You There"

LSB 456 st. 3

♪ **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Oh—sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

-During the darkness, the congregation is invited to meditate silently on Christ's suffering and death-

The Light of Christ is Removed

The Strepitus *(A loud noise symbolizing the closing of Christ's tomb)*

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.

The Light of Christ is Returned

Adoration of the Cross

P We adore You, dearest Jesus, and we stand in awe of Your holy passion.

C **By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.**

P We adore You, dearest Jesus, and we stand in awe of Your love.

C **By Your holy cross You have redeemed *me*.**

P We adore You, dearest Jesus, and here we stand at the foot of your grave.

C **By Your holy cross You have died for me.**

P My God... My God...

Choral Anthem

“Tis Finished”

Parker/Shaw

† A single bell will ring 33 times - once for each year of Jesus’ life. †

Parting

(Please part in silence)

The omission of the benediction today indicates that our worship is not complete until joined with the celebration of Easter. Join us for the Festival of the Resurrection this Sunday at 7:00am, 9:00am, and 11:00am.

Serving us in Worship Today

Preacher	Pastor Jakob Andrzejewski
Narrator “L”	Marshall Mackinder
Pontius Pilate “V”	Dave Eifert
Music	Gregory Paul, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir
Elder	Bryan Harris
Altar Guild	Nicole Kowalski

Acknowledgments

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