

GOOD FRIDAY  
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope*  
MARCH 29, 2024 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the “strepitus”; and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.

THE GATHERING

**Prelude**    *“Ten Thousand Angels”*

**Welcome**

*(Please stand.)*

**Gathering Song**    *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

*Beneath the cross of Jesus,  
I find a place to stand;  
and wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am.  
For hands that should discard me,  
hold wounds which tell me “come.”  
Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.*

*Beneath the cross of Jesus,  
his family is my own.  
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,  
now one through grace alone.  
How could I now dishonor  
the ones that you have loved?  
Beneath the cross of Jesus  
see the children called by God.*

*Beneath the cross of Jesus,  
the path before the crown,  
we follow in his footsteps  
where promised hope is found.*

*How great the joy before us  
to be his perfect bride.  
Beneath the cross of Jesus  
we will gladly live our lives.*

### **Greeting**

P Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

P Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

C **who redeems us from sin and death.**

P For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

C **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray,

We stand near the cross, O God—disturbed, distraught, discouraged.  
Yet we gather here as disciples, those who Jesus loves. On this day of  
great solemnity, let us stand as witnesses to your great love for all the  
world, revealed in the outstretched arms of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE WORD

### **The Shadow of Betrayal**

Reading Mark 14:10-13, 16-21

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, so the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it

is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

**Response**     *"Ah, Holy Jesus"*

*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.*

*For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
for my salvation.*

**The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit & Arrest**

Reading Luke 22:39-48, 54

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done". Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance.

**Response**     *"Go to Dark Gethsemane"*   #347

*Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

*Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.*

## **The Shadow of Denial**

Reading Luke 22:54-62

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

**Response**      *"If this is Real"*

## **The Shadow of Accusation**

Reading Mark 15:1-15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

**Response**      *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

*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.*

*How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;  
how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!  
Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.*

## **The Shadow of Mockery**

Reading Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

**Response**      *"Via Dolorosa"*

## **The Shadow of Crucifixion**

Luke 23:32-43

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? 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 have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**Response**      *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

## **The Shadow of Death**

Reading Mark 15:33-37

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

**Strepitus** with Christ Candle removed.

**Response**      *“Were You There” (verses 1-4)*

**The Shadow of Burial**

Reading John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**Response**      *“Were You There?” (verse 5)*

The Christ Candle returns.

*The service ends in silence. You are welcome to stay for quiet prayer or contemplation. Quietly leave when you are ready.*

*Death does not have the final word. Come Easter morn, a new day breaks forth.  
Join us for the Easter Celebration at 10:30 am*

**SERVING TODAY** — Pam Laasch

**MUSICIANS** — Sandy Doebert, Jordan Fandrey, Sue Gray, Ralph Johnson, Joe Perillo and  
Shawn Salmon

**ACOLYTES** — Margaret Kissick and Nia Salmon

**TECH CREW** — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

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