



Tenebrae Service
Epiphany Lutheran Church

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

We begin our worship this evening in prayer and meditation, reflecting on our sin and pleading for God's mercy. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us, however, that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. We remember the words he spoke in his final hours, and in the ancient bidding prayer, we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

*The hymns for this evening can be found in the
Lutheran Book of Worship and in the bulletin.*

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

*Please enter the sanctuary in silence. You are invited to turn your heart
to the Lord for a time of silent prayer and meditation.*

SILENT PROCESSIONAL

Please face the cross as it processes into the sanctuary.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*)

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, 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, now and forever. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION

SOLEMN REPROACHES

The solemn reproaches express adoration of the crucified Christ.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? In what have I offended you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I went before you in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I planted you as my chosen and fairest vineyard and made you branches of my vine; but you pierced my side with a spear, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed on you the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I gave you my peace, which the world cannot give, but you draw the sword to strike in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I washed your feet as a sign of my love and offered you my body and blood, but you scatter, you deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I prayed that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide, casting lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; a stranger and you did not welcome me; I was 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.

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Amen.

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Jesus made seven final statements during his last hours on the cross. Recorded in the Gospels between the time of his crucifixion and his death, they reveal his divinity as well as his humanity.

THE FIRST WORD

John 19:14–16 and Luke 23:32-34

Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

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.

Meditation in Silence
Bidding Prayer
The first candle is extinguished

741 *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” Burgundy Hymnal*
**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 art thou pale with anguish with sore abuse and scorn.
How does that visage 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 SECOND WORD

Luke 23:35–43

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."

Meditation in Silence
Bidding Prayer
The second candle is extinguished

Hymn 123 *“Ah, Holy Jesus”* (verses 1-2) *Green Hymnal*
**Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that man to judge thee hath 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.**

THE THIRD WORD

John 19:25b-27

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Meditation in Silence
Bidding Prayer
The third candle is extinguished

Hymn 123 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (verses 3-4) Green Hymnal
Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered.
The slave hath sinned and the Son hath suffered.
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.

**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 FOURTH WORD

Matthew 27:45-46

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah."

Meditation in Silence
Bidding Prayer
The fourth candle is extinguished

Hymn 123 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (verse 5) Green Hymnal
Therefore, kind Jesus since I cannot pay thee.
I do adore thee and will ever pray thee.
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

THE FIFTH WORD

Matthew 10:38-42 and John 19:28-29

and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

Meditation in Silence

Bidding prayer

The fifth candle is extinguished

Hymn 115 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" (verses 1-3) *Green Hymnal*

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy Passion.

Let your Spirit now endow me for meditation.

Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish.

Of your suff'ring, pain and death. That I may not perish.

Make me see your great distress, anguish, and affliction.

Bonds and stripes and wretchedness and your crucifixion.

Make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound you.

How you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone make me see your Passion.

But its cause to me make known and its termination.

For I also and my sin wrought your deep affliction.

This the shameful cause has been of your crucifixion.

THE SIXTH WORD

Hebrews 9:11-12, 15, 27-28

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Meditation in Silence

Bidding Prayer

The sixth candle is extinguished

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (verse 3-4) *Burgundy book #741*

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend.

For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?

Oh, make me thine forever and should I fainting be.

Lord let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Lord be my consolation, shield me when I must die.

Remind me of thy Passion when my last hour draws nigh.

These eyes new faith receiving, from thee shall never move.

For he who dies believing, dies safely in thy love.

THE SEVENTH WORD

Luke 23:44-46 and Matthew 27:3-5

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

Meditation in Silence
Bidding Prayer
The seventh candle is extinguished

Choir Anthem *"Even the Heavens are Weeping"*

Joseph M. Martin

DARKNESS

LORD'S PRAYER *(unison, in a whisper)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*After the Lord's Prayer is whispered, the Paschal Candle
is removed from the sanctuary, just as Christ was
hidden from sight in the tomb.*

*The Paschal Candle will return on Easter morning
in symbolism of the Resurrection.*

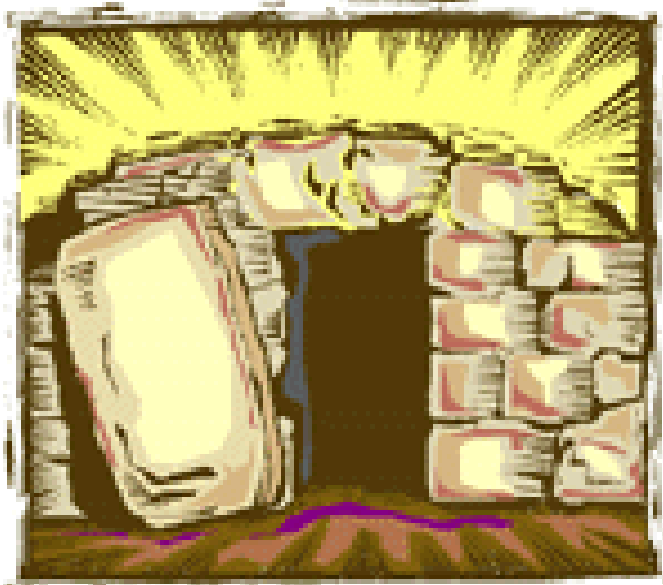
Worship Assistants

Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Pastor	Richard L. Hartman
Pianist	Amanda Pickett
Choir Director	Jim Davis
Cross Bearer	Steve Haag

Thank you to all of our lectors this evening!

Nina Haag
Jim Davis
Rebecca Norberg
Alicia Davis
Sue Johnson
Steve Haag
Mark Herb



E A S T E R

Easter "SonRise" 8:00 am

**Easter "Celebration" Service
10:15 am**