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**Good Friday: Tenebrae**

**AS WE GATHER**

This is a service of meditation and silence, commemorating what is the most solemn night of the Church Year. Tenebrae means "darkness" or "shadows." Most of the service is simple and austere. There is little movement in the chancel. The service ends in almost total darkness.

We will hear and reflect on each of Jesus' seven last words from the cross. After the seventh word, the paschal candle is removed to signify the death and burial of Jesus. There is a loud noise symbolizing the sealing of the tomb. The Lord's Prayer is then whispered. You may remain for meditation and reflection as long as you wish. Please exit in silence.

**+ THE PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Pastor: Almighty God, graciously behold us Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**+ THE FIRST WORD +**

**SENTENCES** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

**People: by Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: God did not spare His own Son,

**People: but gave Him up for us all.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Isaiah 53:3** - He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

**Luke 23:33-34** - And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments.

**PRAYER** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: O innocent Jesus, by false witness and lies You were condemned to death, but by Your true witness You showed us the way of life. Make us to remember how our sins and evil words and thoughts condemn us, and let us not be found false and faithless on the day when God holds court.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN**  "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" (*LSB* 440)

**REFLECTION** (*The first candle is extinguished*)

**+ THE SECOND WORD +**

**SENTENCES** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

**People: by Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me

**People: cannot be My disciple.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Isaiah 53:4** - Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

**Luke 23:38-43** - There was also an inscription over Him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? 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 justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

**PRAYER** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, You said, "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." Grant us grace to bear whatever cross may be ours to carry; and grant that by Your cross the world may be crucified to us and we to the world, and that through Your cross and passion we may gain life everlasting.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN**  "Jesus, Remember Me" (*LSB* 767, twice through)

**REFLECTION** (*The second candle is extinguished*)

**+ THE THIRD WORD +**

**SENTENCES** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

**People: by Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: The Lord has laid on Him the guilt of us all.

**People: He was smitten for the people's transgressions.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 53:5** - But 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.

**John 19:25-27** - 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, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

**PRAYER** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, You have said: "Take My yoke upon You and learn from Me; for My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Grant that, as You bore Your cross willingly for love of us, we may bear our cross for the love of You. Give us grace in every trial and temptation, and save us by Your cross and passion.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (*LSB* 451)

**REFLECTION** (*The third candle is extinguished*)

**+ THE FOURTH WORD +**

**SENTENCES** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

**People: by Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: Those who sow in tears

**People: shall reap with shouts of joy.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 53:6** - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned---every one---to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

**Mark 15:33-34** - And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

**PRAYER** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us a new and contrite heart, that we, lamenting our sins and holding to Your mercy, may receive full forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** "Were You There" (*LSB* 456, vs. 1-3)

**REFLECTION** (*The fourth candle is extinguished*)

**+ THE FIFTH WORD +**

**SENTENCES** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

**People: by Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: They have pierced My hands and feet.

**People: I can count all My bones; they stare and gloat over Me.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 53:10** - Yet is was the will of the Lord to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

**John 19:28** - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

**PRAYER** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, nailed to the cross for us, crucify in us all that is evil. With Your precious blood cleanse us from all our sins, renew a right spirit within us, and strengthen our hearts to forgive.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (*LSB* 450)

**REFLECTION** (*The fifth candle is extinguished*)

**+ THE SIXTH WORD +**

**SENTENCES** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

**People: by Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: Surely He has borne our griefs

**People: and carried our sorrows.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 53:11** - Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

**John 19:29-30** - 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, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

**PRAYER** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: Gracious and loving Father, as You listened to Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the midst of His agony and suffering, so hear the cries of Your people and teach us in all humility and obedience to call on You in all our needs, trusting that You will never leave us nor forsake us.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** "O Perfect Life of Love" (*LSB* 452)

**REFLECTION** (*The sixth candle is extinguished*)

**+ THE SEVENTH WORD +**

**SENTENCES** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

**People: by Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

Pastor: Christ, for our sake, became obedient to the point of death,

**People: even death on a cross.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 53:12** - He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

**Luke 23:46** - Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!" And having said this He breathed His last.

**PRAYER** (Pastor from his chair)

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, out of tender love toward Your creation, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to become our flesh and to suffer death on the cross. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of His patience and also be made partakers of His resurrection.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (*LSB* 425)

**REFLECTION** (*The seventh candle is extinguished*)

*(The paschal candle is carried out and a noise is heard signifying the closing of the tomb and the sealing of the stone.)*

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Whispered*)

**SILENCE FOR MEDITATION**

(*Please exit in silence*)

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Easter’s Vigil is tomorrow evening at 5:00.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**

**Holy Week’s Continuing Service Schedule**

**Saturday**

**5:00 p.m. Vigil**

**Easter Sunday**

**8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Easter Morning Services of the Word**