



HEARTS BROKEN OPEN
TENEBRAE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29, 2024, 7:30 PM

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY

"A family of faith, rooted in Word and Sacrament proclaiming the redeeming love of Jesus Christ through worship, nurture, and service."

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Good Friday marks the day Jesus died. This service uses the tenebrae format. The word tenebrae is Latin for shadows, and in this service, the contrast between light and shadow helps focus us on the story of Jesus' passion and death. After each moment of reading, reflection, and music, one more candle is extinguished.

The service culminates in the Bidding Prayer, a medieval form of prayer that invites participants to contemplate the needs of the whole world and all creation.

GATHERING

We gather in silence.

WELCOME

Today is a painful day in the story of our faith. We learn about betrayal, abuse, and murder. We feel heartbreak and grief. We hear echoes of the most painful parts of our own lives, the lives of those we love, and the lives of our neighbors who suffer around the world. As our perception adjusts to the growing darkness with each extinguished candle, our hearts adjust to the deepening discomfort of the Passion story. As we witness new and deeper things in the dark, our hearts perceive moments of kindness, acts of compassion, and instances of forgiveness amid the pain.

Tonight, the story of Jesus' death will remind us not only of our ultimate liberation from death, but also of the quiet joy our Creator holds for us when we cannot carry it ourselves. As Christians, we hold the grief of this day alongside the goodness of God. We know this story is not the end.

GATHERING SONG

Stay With Us

Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then

stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.

OPENING PRAYER

Open our hearts, O God,
even to the point of breaking.
If they break, let them be broken open
to receive the love and awe
waiting at the foot of the cross.
Open them to our neighbors,
here at home and around the world.
Open them to the courage
to accept what shadows can reveal.
Open them to joy
that waits beyond the pain.
Amen.

PART 1: MARY OF BETHANY ANOINTS JESUS**READING: Mark 14:1-9**

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

REFLECTION

When has someone performed an outrageously kind act for you? How did you feel? When have you performed or witnessed such an act for someone else?

PRAYER

Holy One,
an act of extravagant kindness bolstered your child
for terrible suffering to come.
When suffering finds us and those we love,
pour out such compassion on us.
Soften our hearts
that we can pour ourselves out
in kindness and service to others.
Let greater suffering always inspire greater care.
Amen.

HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW 337



- 1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
- 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
- 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
- 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
- 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

PART 2: THE PASSOVER MEAL

READING: Mark 14:10-26

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray [Jesus] 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, [Jesus'] 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, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." 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."

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

REFLECTION

In this reading, betrayal and celebration are intertwined. When have you felt betrayal or discord break into a time of joy, or joy break into a time of pain and disappointment? Have you seen this in your church, neighborhood, or nation?

PRAYER

Holy One,
even in moments of deepest human failure,
you are there.
Even in times of betrayal and abandonment,
you are near.
You are present to us in bread and cup,
and you are present to us
in the imperfect human companions you've given us.
Break our hearts open
to recognize you and the gifts you offer.
Amen.

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

ELW 349

We sing verses 1, 4, and 5.



- 1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
- 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
- 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
- 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
- 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

The second candle is extinguished.

PART 3: PRAYER AND BETRAYAL

READING: MARK 14:32-46

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

REFLECTION

What is your relationship to prayer? How is it reflected in the disciples' responses? Have you ever prayed for God to prevent something from happening, but it happened anyway?

PRAYER PASTOR

Holy One,
allow our prayer to call out so continuously
and to listen so fervently
that, waking or sleeping,
we are always connected to you.
In the silence, the rant, the plea, the praise,
let us always be drawn deeper into relationship.
Amen.

HYMN

Stay with Me

ELW 348

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
pray. Watch and pray.

The third candle is extinguished.

PART 4: PETER DENIES JESUS

READING: Mark 14:53-54, 66-72

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

REFLECTION

When have you denied your connection to Jesus, perhaps not only with words, but with actions? When has your church failed to follow Jesus faithfully? When have you corrected the course?

PRAYER

Holy One,
give us faith to claim you
with what we do and what we say.
And when we do not,
send us companions to remind us of your call
and to show us grace for our failures.

Amen.

We sing verses 1, 2, and 4.



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The fourth candle is extinguished.

PART 5: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

READING: Mark 15:16-40

Then the soldiers led [Jesus] into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

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. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

REFLECTION

What do you feel in your body as you hear the narrative of Jesus' death? Where have you witnessed Jesus' crucifixion again in the suffering of others?

PRAYER

God,
Jesus' death destroyed death
and all that would separate us from you.
Yet your children still suffer
without any need or reason.
Liberate us so that we turn to free and heal others
who are still crucified today.
Amen.

HYMN**Crucifixion Hymn (They Crucified My Lord)****Choir**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

PART 6: JESUS IS BURIED**READING: Mark 15:42-47**

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

REFLECTION

What last acts of love and respect have you performed for a loved one? What do you hope someone does for you?

PRAYER

Holy One,
even after all he suffered,
Jesus' friends tended his body with love.
May we tend lovingly to all the dead,
so that our last acts and last words
testify to your love
that lasts far beyond death.
Amen.

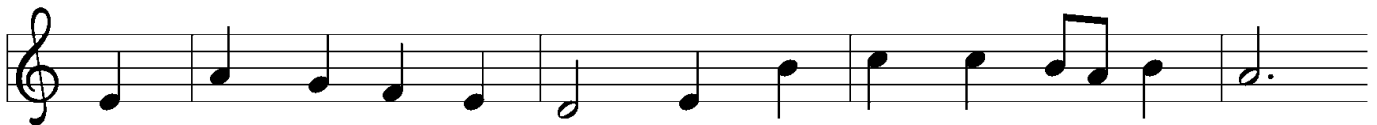
HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351



- 1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
- 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
- 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
- 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - ges - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

PART 7: HEARTS BROKEN OPEN

INVITATION TO SILENT REFLECTION

BIDDING PRAYER

For the church

We pray for our church community, the churches near us, our denomination, and Christians throughout the world.

Silent prayer

Holy God, as we remember the Passion story at the core of our faith, we pray for our Christian siblings. Encourage people and families preparing for baptism. Correct us when we make a weapon of your love. Send us your spirit of connection when our differences threaten to divide us. Make us into Jesus' body: wounded, crucified, yet whole. **Amen.**

For our Jewish neighbors

We pray for our Jewish neighbors and for Jews around the world, recalling the harms they have suffered at the hands of Christians throughout history.

Silent prayer

Holy God, as we recall Jesus' own Jewish origin, we pray for our Jewish neighbors near and far. Remind us that they, too, are your beloved people. Protect them from the violence of antisemitism. Lead us closer to real understanding, mutual respect, and healing justice. **Amen.**

For people of other faiths and none

We pray for our local and global neighbors of other faiths and of no faith.

Silent prayer

Holy God, as Jesus cared for Samaritans and Gentiles, we pray for Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Baha'is, and other people of faith. Protect them as they practice their religions and work through them to make the world a more just and loving place. Send your peace wherever there is interreligious conflict, discrimination, or oppression. We also pray for people of no faith. Sustain them, give them lives full of meaning, and help us be their partners for a world where all are free.

Amen.

For places experiencing violence and conflict

We pray for every place and situation where people suffer violence, conflict, disaster, pain, or loss, from personal relationships to our cities and towns to international wars.

Silent prayer

Holy God, as we remember Jesus' torture and death, we pray for everyone in physical or psychological danger. Aid people at risk in abusive relationships. Protect schools and communities from gun violence. Shelter refugees fleeing from conflicts and those who are left behind. Guard people who willingly endanger themselves for others. Melt warheads into wheelbarrows. Turn anger into passion for peace. **Amen.**

For justice

We pray for justice in all the places where Jesus is crucified daily.

Silent prayer

Holy God, as Jesus died a victim of hatred and imperial power, we pray for justice wherever God's people suffer. Protect climate refugees and indigenous cultures. Shield victims of racism, white supremacy, homophobia, transphobia, and religious intolerance. Disarm governments that persecute their citizens. Inspire leaders to work for justice that repairs harm, even after many generations.

Amen.

For all creation

We pray for all creation crying out to God.

Silent prayer

Holy God, the midday sun went dark when Jesus died. Hear the wordless prayers of your whole creation: mountains and marshes; oceans and rivers; plants and animals; fungi and bacteria; parasites and symbiotes; galaxies and grains of sand. Where we have caused harm, bring healing. Where we have oppressed, bring freedom. Where we have failed to value it, treasure your creation as priceless. Reconnect us to the universe, one species among many, infinitesimal and essential. **Amen.**

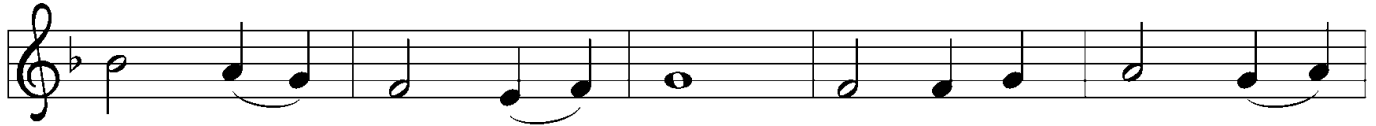
For everything else for which God calls us to pray

In the aftermath of the noise and in the wake of the silence, we pray in simple words:

**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.**



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

The seventh candle is extinguished.

SENDING WORDS

Christ has died.

Go out into the world,
 holding the grief of this night for Jesus
 and for all with whom he suffers.

Go out into the world,
 perceiving more than the suffering.

Go out into the world,
 hearts broken open
 to receive the gifts of God.

Amen.

We stay or depart in silence.

You are welcome to remain for personal prayer and meditation.

Thank you to tonight's worship leaders!

Lectors: John Kroschwitz, Jeff Clair, Terri Clair

Greeter: John Hoge

Livestream Operator: Jody Hodge

Altar Guild: Bobbie Huffman and Dolores McKillip

Church Administrator: Robin Harris

Minister of Music: John Kling

Pastor: Rev. Linnéa Clark

Ministers: People of St. Mark

Worship with Us

*We gather for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (a full-length, more formal service)
and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (a shorter, more informal service). You are always welcome.*

*We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.
Beginners and advanced practitioners alike are welcome.*

Serve with Us

*We welcome volunteers every Sunday after worship to help with Lunches with Love, which prepares lunches
for clients of HomeFront. Recently, we shared our 13,000th lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse
(kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.*

Contact Us

You can reach our office at admin@stmarkhamilton.org and at (609) 585-7087.

*You can reach Pastor Linnéa Clark directly at pastor@stmarkhamilton.org
or at (215) 620-4977 in case of emergency.*

*You can also find us online at stmarkhamilton.org
and at facebook.com/stmarkhamilton.*

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