



THIRST
TENEBRAE FOR GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 18, 2025, 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, when we pray for the needs of the whole world and all creation.

WELCOME

GATHERING WORDS

This is the day when God shares humanity's suffering,
crucified and dying, calling for water.

We thirst for water.

This is the day when God cries out,
seeking compassion amid cruelty.

We thirst for mercy.

This is the day when God cannot breathe
in the relentless gaze of violence.

We thirst for shade.

This is the day when silence replaces noise,
God's voice drained away.

We thirst for the river.

This is the day when God's own heart breaks,
alone on the cross.

We thirst for connection.

"I am thirsty," says Jesus, and so are we,
and so is our whole world, broken and beloved.

Stay with us, Lord.

Hear us as we pray.

HYMN

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.

PRAYER

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. You suffered and died on the cross. As we enter the deep mystery of your own suffering, help us attend to the needs of our neighbors nearby, far away, and through all of creation. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PASSION READING: John 19:16b-30

Jesus is crucified

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The first candle is extinguished.

PART 1: THIRSTING FOR WATER

READING: Psalm 69:1-3, 19-21

Vinegar to drink

Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

² I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.

³ I am weary with my crying;
my throat is parched.

My eyes grow dim
with waiting for my God.

¹⁹ You know the insults I receive
and my shame and dishonor;
my foes are all known to you.

²⁰ Insults have broken my heart,
so that I am in despair.
I looked for pity, but there was none;
and for comforters, but I found none.

²¹ They gave me poison for food,
and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

REFLECTION

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.

The second candle is extinguished.

PART 2: THIRSTING FOR MERCY

READING: Genesis 21:14-16

Hagar and Ishmael flee into the wilderness

¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

REFLECTION

HYMN

Ah! Holy Jesus

ELW 349



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 third candle is extinguished.

PART 3: THIRSTING FOR SHADE

READING: Psalm 42:1-3, 9-10

Longing for God like running water

¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

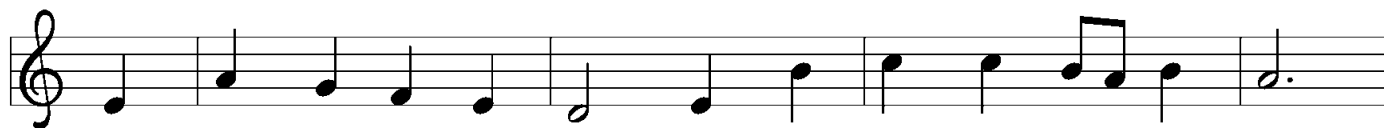
⁹ I say to God, my rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?”

¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

REFLECTION



- 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 - gres - 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 fourth candle is extinguished.

PART 4: THIRSTING FOR THE RIVER

READING: Isaiah 37:23-25

Isaiah prophesies against the king of Assyria

²³ "Whom have you mocked and reviled?

Against whom have you raised your voice
and haughtily lifted your eyes?

Against the Holy One of Israel!

²⁴ By your servants you have mocked the Lord,

and you have said, 'With my many chariots
I have gone up the heights of the mountains,
to the far recesses of Lebanon;

I felled its tallest cedars,
its choicest cypresses;

I came to its remotest height,
its densest forest.

²⁵ I dug wells

and drank waters;

I dried up with the sole of my foot
all the streams of Egypt."

REFLECTION

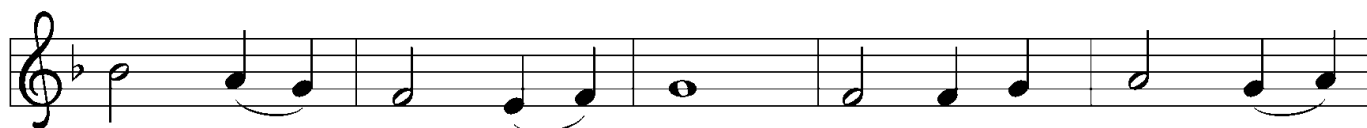
HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

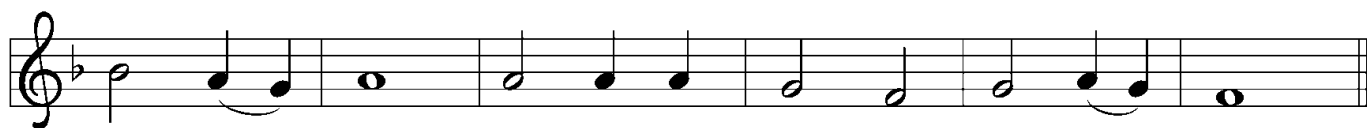
ELW 803



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 fifth candle is extinguished.

PART 5: THIRSTING FOR CONNECTION

READING: Psalm 63:1-4

A dry and weary land without water

¹ O God, you are my God; I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

REFLECTION

CHOIR ANTHEM

They Crucified My Lord (Crucifixion Spiritual)

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Reading: John 19:28-30

Jesus dies

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

A brief silence

INVITATION TO SILENT REFLECTION

BIDDING PRAYER

At the foot of the cross,
our hearts are broken open.
We pray together for God's whole creation.

For the church

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

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.

For people of other faiths and none

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

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.

For justice

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

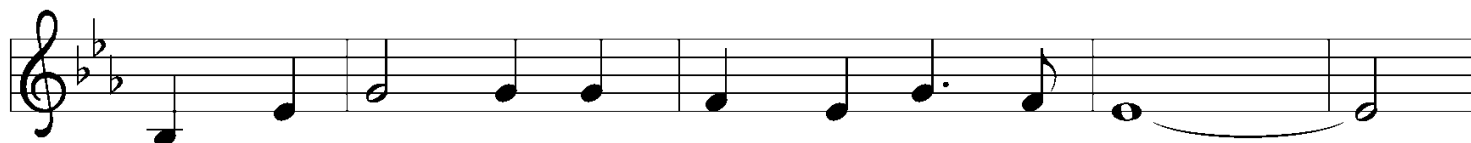
For all creation

We pray for all creation crying out to God.

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, saying:

**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.**

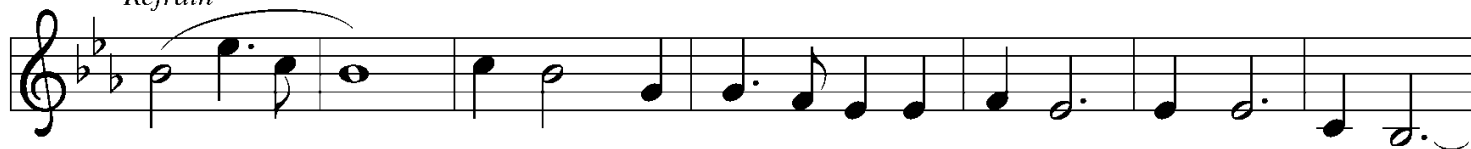


- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



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?

Refrain



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 seventh candle is extinguished.

Sending Words

Christ has died.

Violence seemed to win the day,
but God's redeeming love
endures in the silence.

Go from this place
to love and serve our neighbors,
in whose suffering
we see Christ's own suffering reflected.
For Christ's own infinite love,
poured out like water that never runs dry,
we say:

Thanks be to God.

*We stay or depart in silence.
You are welcome to remain for personal prayer and meditation.*

Thank you to tonight's worship leaders!

Lectors: Karen Breninghouse, John Kroschwitz

Greeter: John Hoge and Joe Guido

Livestream Operator: Michaela Arzt

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 16,000th 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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