



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

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# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- Large print service folders and assisted listening devices are available from an usher.
- Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- We extend our sincere thanks to all the musicians, directors, soloists, and the choir of St. John's for their labor of love to their Savior and his people.
- No offering will be received during today's service. An offering box will be placed in the back of the church to receive your contributions as you leave.
- All worshipers are asked to leave the church solemnly and in silence and return on Easter morning to celebrate our Lord's victory over death in his resurrection. Our Sunrise Service will begin at 6:00 a.m. and our Easter Festival Services will be at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. A half-hour of preservice music will begin at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Easter breakfast will be served at 7:15 a.m.

# Good Friday Tenebrae

## April 15, 2022

On Good Friday, the church remembers the crucifixion of her Lord. Her remembrance, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but rather a service of adoration of the Son of God as he offers up his life as the Lamb of God. Good Friday is part of the larger celebration of the mystery of salvation beginning on Maundy Thursday and culminating in the proclamation of the Easter message: “He is risen!”

To impress upon the hearts and minds of believers the terrible consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior’s sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service called the “Tenebrae” on the last days of Holy Week. *Tenebrae* is a Latin word meaning “shadows” or “darkness.” The gradual extinguishing of the candles and darkening of the church during the service remind us of the events that led to the awe-full darkness that covered the earth when our Savior hung on the cross.

The climax of the service, the announcement of Christ’s death, is accompanied by the *strepitus*: a loud noise symbolic of the closing of the tomb.

Although Tenebrae is a solemn service, it is not without hope. As the service concludes, one candle – the Christ Candle – will be left burning on the center of the altar to remind us of our Lord’s abiding presence.

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### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

*Please stand*

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

# Part One: The Passion According to St. John

*by Joachimus von Burk, arranged by William Braun*

**Hymn**

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

*Christian Worship 422 sts. 1-2*

## **The Passion of our Lord**

Hear now the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the holy evangelist Saint John.

Jesus went over the brook Kidron; there was a garden which he and his disciples entered.

Now then Judas, having procured a band of soldiers from the chief priests, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen, came and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Jesus answered, "If you seek me, let these men go."

So they then took Jesus and bound him and led him first to Annas, and then to Caiaphas, who advised the Jews it would be good that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and as he went into the high priest's palace, a servant girl said to him, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?"

He said, "I am not."

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world and have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me?"

When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong, but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"

## Hymn

## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

*Christian Worship 429 sts. 1-2*

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters.

So Pilate went outside and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."

Pilate entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth."

Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he said this, he went outside to the Jews and said, "I find no guilt in him, so do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

They all cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!"

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.

And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.

They came up to him, saying, "Hail, the King of the Jews," and struck him with their hands.

Pilate went out again and said to them, "Behold the man."

The chief priests and officers cried out, "Crucify him! We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and said to the Jews, "Behold, here is your King."

They cried out, "Away with him, crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

## **Hymn**

## **O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken**

*Christian Worship 432 sts. 1-2*

So Pilate delivered Jesus over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place of a skull, which is called Golgatha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side and Jesus between them.

And Pilate wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

And the soldiers took his garments and divided them into four parts, and for his robe they cast lots. This was to fulfill the Scripture, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

But standing by the cross of Jesus was his mother, and the disciple whom he loved, and Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, this is your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, this is your mother."

After this, Jesus knowing all that was now finished, said, "I thirst."

So they put a sponge full of 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.

## **Hymn**

## **O Darkest Woe**

*Christian Worship 427 sts. 1-2*

## **Interlude**

**Tolling of the bell 33 times**

*Please stand*

Almighty God, our Father, help us to be mindful of those events that occurred in the life of our Savior during his last week in Jerusalem. As we become aware of the manner in which the disciples, the members of the crowd, and others failed him, we pray that you would quicken our hearts that we may not be guilty of the same sins today. Forgive us for those occasions when we fail to exert a strong witness for you, and so guide us by your Holy Spirit that we might always be faithful and loyal in our devotion and service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

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

*Be seated*

## **Part Two: Reflections on the Seven Words from the Cross**

*The church gradually becomes darker*

### **First Word**

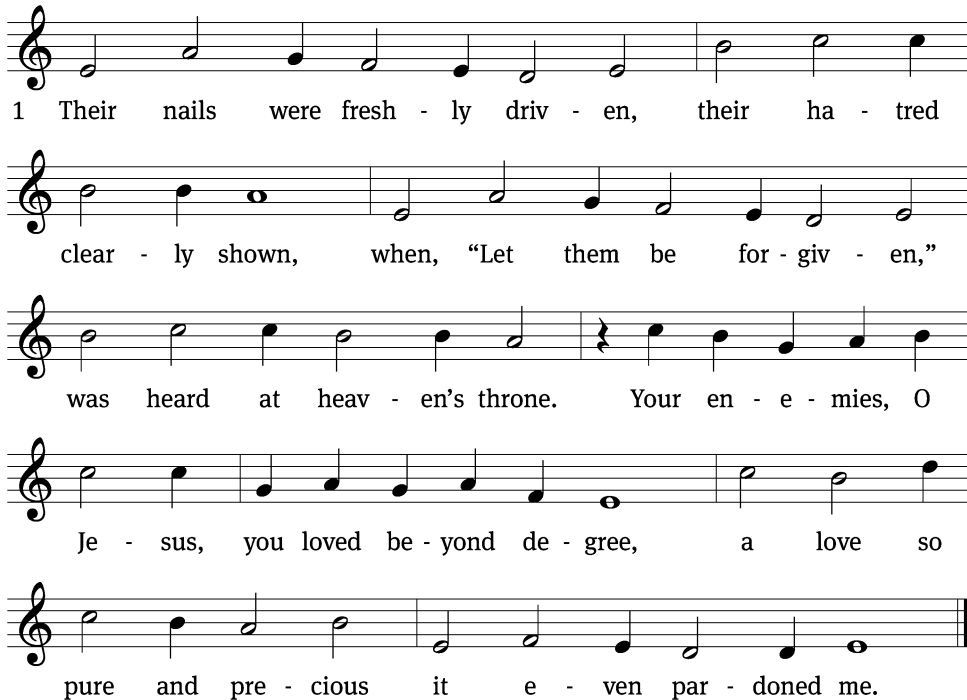
Luke 23:32-34

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

*Meditation on the Word*

## Hymn

## The Seven Words Christian Worship 436 st. 1



1 Their nails were fresh - ly driv - en, their ha - tred  
clear - ly shown, when, "Let them be for - giv - en,"  
was heard at heav - en's throne. Your en - e - mies, O  
Je - sus, you loved be - yond de - gree, a love so  
pure and pre - cious it e - ven par - doned me.

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Tune: Public domain

## Second Word

Luke 23:35-43

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."



Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."  
Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

*Meditation on the Word*

## Hymn

The Seven Words  
*Christian Worship 436 st. 2*

**On you, my King, depending, I'm rid of all my sins!  
My final day here ending, my first in heav'n begins.  
As you have truly spoken, in paradise I'll be,  
with you in bliss unbroken—you will remember me.**

## Third Word

John 19:25–27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

*Meditation on the Word*

## Hymn

The Seven Words  
*Christian Worship 436 st. 3*

**A Savior like no other, all self-concern denied,  
you served your grieving mother while you were crucified.  
My sin had made me filthy, but you, the perfect child,  
were designated guilty, and I am reconciled.**

## Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.  
About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

*Meditation on the Word*

## Hymn

The Seven Words  
*Christian Worship 436 st. 4*

**Condemned, cut off, forsaken, outside the Father's care,  
by terror overtaken, no ear would hear your prayer.  
On you God's wrath was vented, on you his fury fell,  
when, on the cross tormented, you took my place in hell.**

## Fifth Word

John 19:28, 29

After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

*Meditation on the Word*

## Hymn

The Seven Words  
*Christian Worship 436 st. 5*

**My Lord, in death's dark valley, both soul and body drained,  
one drink would help you rally what little strength remained  
to raise your voice in vict'ry, to sound your foe's defeat—  
the highest point in hist'ry—my rescue was complete.**

## Sixth Word

John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."

*Meditation on the Word*

## Hymn

The Seven Words  
*Christian Worship 436 st. 6*

**Though sin's most lethal wages to me, O Christ, were due,  
the guilt of all the ages came crashing down on you.  
Most surely, "It is finished"—my debt is fully paid;  
my joy is undiminished; my heart is unafraid.**

## **Seventh Word**

Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

*Meditation on the Word*

## **Closing of the Tomb**

*The single candle remaining lit on the altar symbolizes the hope of the resurrection.*

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **Serving at Worship**

**Preacher**

Pastor Kyle Bitter

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Joel Leyrer

**Musician**

Lynn Kozlowski, organ

**Adult Choir Director**

Adam Sipe

# The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

## Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer*  
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*Pastor Eric Schroeder*  
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*Pastor Kyle Bitter*  
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## Chinese Outreach

### Pastor

*Pastor Joshua Yu*  
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## School Principal

*Mr. Dan Markgraf*  
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## Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

## Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

**[sjtosa.org](http://sjtosa.org)**