

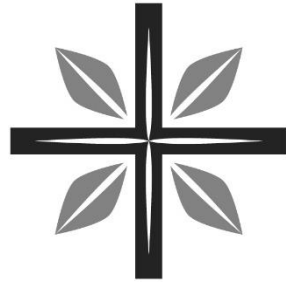


St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

Good Friday Tenebrae, March 30, 2018

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, assisted listening devices, and children's service folders are available from the ushers.
- 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 AM and our Easter Festival Services will be at 8:30 & 10:30 AM. A half-hour of preservice music will begin at 8:00 & 10:00 AM. Easter breakfast will be served at 7:15 AM.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

March 30, 2018

On Good Friday, the church remembers the crucifixion of her Lord. Her remembrance, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but 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.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand

M: Let us pray.

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, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

PART ONE: THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

by John Bertalot, from Matthew 27

Choir: 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.

**C: The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
 The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
 We forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted –
 God is committed.**

Narrators: When morning came, the chief priests and the elders of the nation all met together to plan the death of Jesus.

Choir: They bound him and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the Roman governor.

Narrators: When Judas the traitor saw that Jesus had been condemned, he was seized with remorse, and returned the thirty silver pieces to the chief priests and elders.

Judas: “I have sinned,”

Narrators: he said.

Judas: “I have brought an innocent man to his death.”

Narrators: But they said,

The Jews: “What is that to us? It is your concern.”

Narrators: So he threw the money down in the temple and left; he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests took up the money, but they said,

The Jews: “This cannot be put into the temple fund; it is blood money.”

Narrators: So after conferring they used it to buy the Potter's Field as a burial place for foreigners. This explains the name Blood Acre, by which that field has been known ever since, and in this way fulfillment was given to the saying of the prophet Jeremiah: "They took the thirty silver pieces, the price set on a man's head, and gave the money for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Choir: 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.

C: **Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?**
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
This I do merit.

Narrators: Jesus was now brought before the governor;

Pilate: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrators: the governor asked him.

Jesus: "The words are yours,"

Narrators: said Jesus, and when the chief priests and elders brought charges against him he made no reply. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: "Do you not hear all this evidence they are bringing against you?"

Narrators: but to the governor's great astonishment he refused to answer a single word. At the festival season it was customary for the governor to release one prisoner chosen by the people. There was then in custody a man of some notoriety called Jesus Barabbas. When the people assembled, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Which would you like me to release to you – Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus called Messiah?"

Narrators: For he knew it was out of malice that Jesus had been handed over to him. While Pilate was sitting in court a message came to him from his wife:

Pilate's Wife: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man; I was much troubled on his account in dreams last night."

Narrators: Meanwhile the chief priests and elders had persuaded the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. So when the governor asked,

Pilate: "Which of the two would you like me to release to you?"

Narrators: they said,

The Jews: "Barabbas, Barabbas, Barabbas!"

Pilate: "Then what am I to do with Jesus?"

Narrators: asked Pilate. And with one voice they answered,

The Jews: "Crucify him!"

Pilate: "Why, what harm has he done?"

Narrators: asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder,

The Jews: "Crucify him, crucify him, crucify him!"

Narrators: When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, and that there was a danger of a riot, he took water and washed his hands in full view of the crowd.

Pilate: "My hands are clean of this man's blood,"

Narrators: he declared.

Pilate: "See to that yourselves."

Narrators: And with one voice the people cried,

The Jews: "His blood be on us and on our children."

Narrators: He then released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged, and then handed him over to be crucified.

Choir: In thy most bitter passion
My heart to share doth cry,
With thee for my salvation
Upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved
To stand thy cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-beloved,
Yet thank thee for thy death.

C: **My burden in your passion,
Lord, you have borne for me,
For it was my transgression,
My shame, on Calvary.
I cast me down before you;
Wrath is my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore you;
Redeemer, spurn me not!**

Narrators: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into his residence, the Praetorium, where they collected the whole company round him. They stripped him and dressed him in a scarlet cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they placed it on his head, and a stick in his right hand. Falling on their knees before him they jeered at him,

The Jews: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Narrators: They spat on him and used the stick to beat him about the head. When they had finished mocking him, they stripped off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes.

Choir: O sacred head, sore wounded,
Defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
With mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendor
The hosts of heaven adore!

**C: Men mock and taunt and jeer you,
They smite your countenance,
Though mighty world shall fear you
And flee before your glance.
How pale you are with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
Your eyes with pain now languish,
That once were bright as morn.**

Narrators: Then they led him away to be crucified. On their way out they met a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and pressed him into service to carry his cross. Coming to a place called Golgotha (which means “Place of a Skull”), they offered him drink of wine mixed with gall, but after tasting it he would not drink. When they had crucified him they shared out his clothes by casting lots, and then sat there to keep watch. Above his head was placed the inscription giving the charge against him: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left.

Choir: Faithful cross! Above all other, one and only noble tree! None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be: sweetest wood and sweetest iron! Sweetest weight is hung on thee.

Narrators: The passersby wagged their heads and jeered at him, crying,

The Jews: “So you are the man who was to pull down the temple and rebuild it in three days! If you really are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross.”

Narrators: The chief priests with the scribes and elders joined in the mockery,

The Jews: “He saved others but he cannot save himself. King of Israel, indeed! Let him come down now from the cross and then we shall believe him. He trusted in God, did he? Let God rescue him, if he wants him for he said he was God’s Son.” Even the bandits who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

Choir: The flaming banners of our King advance through his self-offering. He lived to rob death of its sting; he died eternal life to bring.

Narrators: From midday a darkness fell over the whole land, which lasted until three in the afternoon, and about three Jesus cried aloud,

Jesus: “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”

Narrators: which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Hearing this, some of the bystanders said,

The Jews: “He is calling for Elijah.”

Narrators: One of them ran at once and filled a sponge, which he soaked in sour wine and held it to his lips on the end of a stick. But the other said,

The Jews: “Let us see if Elijah will come to save him.”

Choir: The crowd would have been satisfied to see a prophet crucified. They stumbled on a mystery: Messiah reigning from a tree.

Narrators: Jesus again cried aloud and breathed his last.

Choir: It is enough. Lord if it pleases you, release me from the yoke. My Jesus comes; O world, I bid goodnight. To heav’n I make my way, securely now in peace departing, I leave behind my pain and sorrow. It is enough, it is enough.

Narrators: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split, and graves were opened; many of God’s saints were raised from sleep, and coming out of their graves after his resurrection entered the Holy City, where many saw them. And when the centurion and his men who were keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and all that was happening, they were filled with awe and said,

Choir: “This, this must have been the Son of God.”

Choir: For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation;
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter Passion,
For my salvation.

**C: 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.**

Please stand

M: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**C: 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 becomes gradually 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, there they crucified him, 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.”

Meditation on the Word

Response to the Word**Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (stanza 1)***Christian Worship 139*

**C: Jesus, in your dying woes,
Even while your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for your foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus!**

Second Word**Luke 23:39-43**

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? 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, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

*Meditation on the Word***Response to the Word****Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (stanza 2)***Christian Worship 139*

**C: Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief who near you dies,
Promising him paradise:
Hear us, holy Jesus!**

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 his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”

Meditation on the Word

Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (stanza 3)

Christian Worship 139

**C: Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart your sorrows rend,
And your dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus!**

Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” – which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Meditation on the Word

Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (stanza 4)

Christian Worship 139

**C: Jesus, plunged in depths unknown
With our evil foe alone,
While no light from heav’n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus!**

Fifth Word

John 19:28

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

Meditation on the Word

Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (stanza 5)

Christian Worship 139

**C: Jesus, in your thirst and pain,
While your wounds the lifeblood drain,
Thus fulfilling Scripture’s plan:
Hear us, holy Jesus!**

Sixth Word

John 19:30

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

Meditation on the Word

Response to the Word

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (stanza 6)

Christian Worship 139

**C: Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All your Father's will obeyed,
By your sufferings perfect made:
Hear us, holy Jesus!**

Seventh Word

Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Meditation on the Word

Closing of the Tomb

*The single candle carried forward at the end of the service symbolizes the hope of the resurrection.
After the candle is placed on the altar, the congregation may dismiss in silence.*

Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunrise Service at 6:00 AM

Breakfast at 7:15 AM

Festival Services at 8:30 and 10:30 AM

Preservice music beginning at 8:00 and 10:00 AM

Serving at Worship

Worship Leaders

Pastor Eric Schroeder
Pastor Joel Leyrer

Musicians

Lynn Kozlowski, organ
Michael Skocir, timpany

Adam Sipe & Paul Lehninger, “Narrators”
Ed Miller, “Jesus”
Cal Kozlowski, “Judas”
Michael Skocir, “Pilate”
Katie Lesperance, “Pilate’s Wife”

Adult Choir Director

Dr. William Braun

Head Usher

Kerry Kuehn

Acknowledgements (reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709971, all rights reserved)

“The Passion According to St. Matthew” Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

“O Dearest Jesus” Text public domain.

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” Text public domain.

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” Text public domain.

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 21st 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

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 am

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 pm

Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org*

*Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org*

*Pastor Kyle Bitter
kyle.bitter@sjtosa.org*

Chinese Outreach Pastor

*Pastor Joshua Yu
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org*

School Principal

*Mr. Scott Uecker
scott.uecker@sjtosa.org*

Church Office

*7809 Harwood Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7831
church@sjtosa.org*

School Office

*1278 Dewey Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4214
school@sjtosa.org*

sjtosa.org