

Good Friday
Tenebrae Vespers
April 19, 2009

Vom Gotsbletern.



Life in Christ Lutheran Church
Grand Marais, MN

The Congregation assembles in silence.

Procession of the Cross

Please stand and turn to follow the Processional Cross

(The pastor dressed in black carries the processional cross pausing for the verse and response. Repeat several times during the procession)

- P** Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages
C **to do away with sin by sacrificing Himself.**

Prayer

- P** Almighty God, graciously behold this 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; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Isaac Watts, 1674– 1748 ROCKINGHAM OLD L M
Public domain Gal. 6: 14; Phil. 3: 8

Offering

Reading

Luke 23:50-55

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid.

Devotion

At the Grave of Jesus. ... Luke 23:50-55



Office of Tenebrae

His Friends Deserted Him

451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.
- 3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

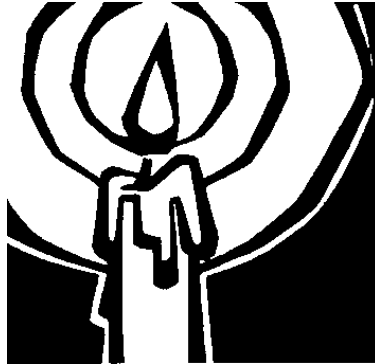
4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

Thomas Kelly, 1769– 1855, alt. Public domain
O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN 87 87 D
Is. 53: 3– 6; Acts 4: 11– 12; Rom. 4: 25

The Lesson

Matthew 26:47–50

(Frist Candle is Extinguished)



His Country Outlawed Him

438 Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

sts. 1–2

1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,

“All this I gladly suffer.”

- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,
The Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send
To gain for us His favor.

“Go forth, My Son,” the Father said,
“And free My children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation.

The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share
The fruit of Your salvation.”

Paul Gerhardt, 1607– 76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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Is. 53: 1– 12; Ex. 12: 5; John 1: 29

The Lesson

Matthew 26:51-56

(The Second Candle is Extinguished)

The Church Rejected Him

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.

Refrain: Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.

Refrain:

- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing. *Refrain:*
- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me. *Refrain:*
- 5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish. *Refrain:*
- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented. *Refrain:*
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

P False witnesses rise up against Me, breathing out violence. (*Psalm 27:12*)

C Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like My suffering.

The Lesson

Matthew 26:59–66

(The Third Candle is Extinguished)

The World's System Eliminated Him

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 1–2

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.
- 2 How pale Thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.



attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. © 1941 Concordia Publishing House
HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN (Rhythmic) 76 76 D
Ps. 22: 6–8; Is. 53: 4–5; John 10: 14–15, 27–28; Heb. 12: 2

P He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. (*Isaiah 53:5*)

The Lesson

Mark 15:6–15

(The Fourth Candle is Extinguished)

God Forsook Him

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the
transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I
deserve
Thy place; Look on me with Thy
favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.

4 My Shepherd, now receive me;
My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
To heav'nly joys above.

5 What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.

6 My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

7 Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well

The Lesson

Matthew 27:32–46

(The Fifth Candle is Extinguished)

(The bell is tolled as a reminder that God forsook him)

He Died

456 Were You There

sts. 1–3

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt. Public domain

WERE YOU THERE 10 10 14 10

Matt. 28: 6; Luke 22: 33, 53; Rom. 6: 3–4

P He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (*Isaiah 53:12*)

C [Christ] became obedient to death--even death on a cross. (*Phil 2:8*)

The Lesson

Luke 23:46–49

(*The Sixth Candle is Extinguished*)

He Was Buried

453 Upon the Cross Extended

sts. 1, 5, 7

- 1 Upon the cross extended
See, world, your Lord suspended.
Your Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.
- 5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
Your head with thorns surrounded,
You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing,
You healed my wounds and set me free.
- 7 Your cross I place before me;
Its saving pow'r restore me,
Sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
Be guiding and attending
My way to Your eternal rest.

Public domain

P You have put Me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. I am like a man without strength. (*Psalms 88:6,4*)

C [Christ] became obedient to death--even death on a cross (*Phil 2:8*)

The Lesson

John 19:31-42

(Seventh candle removed from the sanctuary)

(A Loud Sound is Heard)

The "strepitus" (pronounced STREP-ee-toose) means "loud noise" and is signified by the slamming of a book or door toward the conclusion of the Good Friday Tenebrae Service ("Service of Darkness"). The "loud noise" symbolizes the earth shaking and rocks splitting (Matt. 27:51) at Jesus' death, and foreshadows the "violent earthquake" (Matt. 28:2) at the opening of Jesus' tomb on Easter morning. These loud noises are recounted for us only in Matthew's Gospel.

(Seventh candle is returned to the sanctuary, it remains lit)

Lord's Prayer

Whispered

Congregation Departs in Silence



Acknowledgments

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