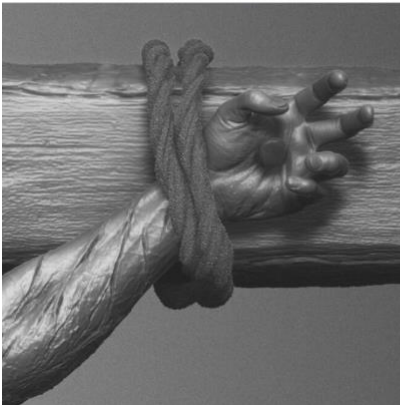
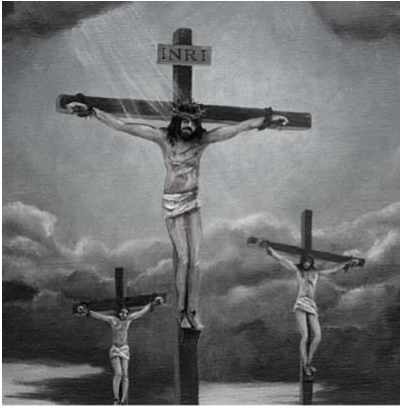


Resurrection Lutheran Church

New Life in the Living Word + For Now + Forever

1735 E Main Street - Mankato, MN | 507-345-4455 | www.resurrectionmankato.org



Good Friday

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Friday, April 7, 2023

The Good Friday Service is a continuation of the Maundy Thursday Service. What was begun then continues this night as we journey with our Savior from the Last Supper, the scourging and humiliation, to the cross and tomb. The Good Friday liturgy is marked with austerity, silence and reflection. The chancel area, which was stripped bare last evening, remains free of any ornamental beauty and is now adorned in black. There is no prelude or postlude music. Everything focuses on our adoration of the crucified Christ, reigning from the throne of the cross. Our remembrance, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but of awe-filled adoration for Jesus Christ as he offers up His life as the spotless Lamb of God.

This service of Tenebrae (which means “darkness”) is not a funeral rite for Jesus, but rather serves as an opportunity for intercession and reverence. In quiet meditation we center our focus on the last words of Jesus Christ as he spoke them from the cross. As we listen to these words that Christ uttered in the throes of death, we pray that we might have ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to grasp the self-emptying love of our Savior.

GATHERING LITANY

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

C: By his holy cross he has redeemed the world.

P: Remember his words,

C: For they are light.

P: Remember his works,

C: For they are our righteousness.

P: Remember his grace,

C: For it is ours to receive.

P: Remember his glory,

C: For it is the brilliance of God.

P: Remember his pain,

C: For it was not deserved.

P: Remember his sorrow,

C: For it was for our hardness of heart.

P: Remember his life,

C: For it was perfect.

P: Remember his death,

C: For it was ours.

P: Behold the Lamb of God.

C: By his holy cross he has redeemed the world.

PRAYER OF THE NIGHT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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, because his death on the cross frees us from our deserved punishment of sin and because Jesus lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST WORD | A Word of Forgiveness

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." (Luke 23:32-38)

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, too, may be included in this prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace. Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us,

C: that we might be made whole.

HYMN: Just As I am

Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

THE SECOND WORD | A Word of Promise

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, you reached out to the thief and welcomed him to God's side. Come along side us in our sin and separation. Enable us, by the Holy Spirit, to repent and receive your grace. Bring hope and peace to everything and everyone who is broken. Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us,

C: that we might be made whole.

HYMN: Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Save from wrath and make me pure.

When I draw my final breath, When my eyes shall close in death,
Then I rise to worlds unknown, and behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

THE THIRD WORD | A Word of Love

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (John 19:23-27)

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we, who seek to follow your example, may show our concern for those who are suffering. Cradle in your strong hands those longing for peace, Lord, and use us to reach out to and provide for those in our human family who are in need. Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

C: that we might be made whole.

HYMN: The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

THE FOURTH WORD | A Word of Agony

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46)

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God's presence. Grant us the grace, Almighty God, to know and believe that we will never be forsaken, that you are present with us even to the end of the age. Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us,

C: that we might be made whole.

HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O Sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thy only crown,
How art Thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How does this visage languish Which once was bright as morn!

THE FIFTH WORD | A Word of Fulfillment

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. (John 19:28-29)

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O Blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us,
C: that we might be made whole.

HYMN: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?

Alas! And did my Savior bleed? And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away — 'Tis all that I can do.

THE SIXTH WORD | A Word of Completion

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." (John 19:30a)

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us

C: that we might be made whole.

SPECIAL MUSIC.....Ross Heilman

*"He Was Cut Off Out of the Land of the Living" and
"But Thou Didst Not Leave His Soul in Hell" from Handel's Messiah*

THE SEVENTH WORD | A Word of Concession

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23:44-46)

MEDITATION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, may follow his example. Even in death, you are there. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we struggle, when we come to our own end, you are there. Help us to entrust our lives and death into your faithful hands of love. Lord, in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us,

C: that we might be made whole.

A time of silent reflection is kept

SOLO: Were You There.....*Rev. Aaron Deutsch*

SENDING INSTRUCTIONS

Tonight, as you arrived at worship you were handed a nail. Now, at the close of our service you are invited, in your own time, to bring that nail forward and either pound it into the cross on the altar steps, or hand it to one of the two worship assistants to do it for you. Three small taps is all that is needed, as holes have been predrilled. Take time for silent prayer and meditation as you contemplate your sin, which nailed Christ to the cross, and the love of Jesus, which kept him there.

*Because Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are considered a single ongoing worship service, our liturgy is void of a benediction or postlude. Return rejoicing on **Easter Sunday at 9:30am** because Jesus did not stay in the tomb but rose from the dead.*