

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



GOOD FRIDAY

3:15 PM Service

April 15, 2022



ST. JOHN—ST. JAMES

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

UPON ENTERING GOD’S HOUSE

Tenebrae, which means darkness, lends its name to this service. The *Tenebrae* service is a traditional service of the Christian Church used during Holy Week to impress upon the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior’s sacrifice. The candles are slowly extinguished and the sanctuary lights are dimmed, reminding us of the darkness that came over the earth from noon until 3 p.m. while Jesus hung on the cross. The seven candles represent Jesus, the Light of the world. The church is gradually darkened to portray Jesus coming closer and closer to death.

One last vigil candle will remain lit to indicate that death only seems triumphant over Christ. It will be removed to symbolize Jesus’ death and burial.

The light of Christ will emerge from the tomb on Easter morning. We look forward to celebrating his victory over death at our Easter services this Sunday!

Opening Hymn:

Sweet the Moments , Rich in Blessing

Christian Worship, Hymn # 400

Verse 1 **♪ Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,
Which before the cross we spend,
Life and health and peace possessing
From the sinner’s dying friend.**

Verse 2 **♪ Here we rest in wonder, viewing
All our sins on Jesus laid;
Here we see redemption flowing
From the sacrifice he made.**

CONFESSION OF SINS PRAYER

M We pray in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there really is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C **Lord, we have fallen short and sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Please, forgive us for Jesus' sake.**

M Today may we be reminded not only of your justice but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings.

C **When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross where our guilt was washed away in Jesus' blood.**

M Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven.

C **For being our perfect substitute, we thank you, Lord Jesus.**

M Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin and commended your spirit into the hands of the Father. Teach us to cast the concerns of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his watchful care.

C **Grant us courage to face all that comes in life, including death. Give us confidence in knowing this is how you lead us to heaven.**

M Holy Spirit, hear us now as we offer our personal praise and concerns in silent prayer.

(Silent prayer.)

M The cross was once an instrument of torture and death. It is now a sign of love and life.

C **Dear Savior, we humbly come before you to kneel at the cross in awe of your power and love. Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C Verse 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.**

C Verse 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?** *(CW, #407)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M God most holy, look with mercy on this group of worshipers gathered in faith 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

53 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because 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.

☐ I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

And this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Epistle Lesson


Galatians 3:10-13


¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: *“Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”* ¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because *“the righteous will live by faith.”* ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, *“The person who does these things will live by them.”* ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: *“Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”*

Hymn Response:

Not All the Blood of Beasts

Christian Worship, Hymn # 398

Verse 1  **Not all the blood of beasts
On Israel's altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.**

Verse 2  **But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away,
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.**



THE SACRAMENT

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship as believers, and we proclaim his death until he returns. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, **St. John-St. James members** are asked to register before or after the service.*

***Guests and visitors** wishing to commune with us for the first time are asked to speak with our pastor prior to the start of the worship service. We make this request out of a love for our Savior's teaching concerning the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 10,11), and out of love for our guests, seeking only their spiritual good and blessing. We humbly ask for your respectful cooperation. May the Lord bless each of our communicants today with peace-filled hearts and a renewed spirit to serve and love their Lord Jesus.*

LORD'S PRAYER

G Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PREFACE and WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M In Holy Communion we are not more forgiven, but we are drawn closer to our God and we have a further assurance that our sins have been forgiven. God's people participate in an intimate communion with their God in the Lord's Supper, and through it God promises to bestow blessings upon us. So also those who commune together participate in a communion with one another sharing in a common loaf and a common faith. This union with God and one another is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God the peace we share. Thus, we remember...

M Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

A PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, we confess our many sins, trusting that Jesus Christ, your Son, has fully atoned for them all. We humbly seek your grace and blessings in this sacrament. Use it to comfort our hearts and give us peace. Make our penitence ever genuine and our faith ever true, that strengthened by this means of grace we may turn from our sins and trust in our Savior. It's in His name we ask. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(After all those communing have received Lord's Supper, we conclude our celebration:)

M Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting.

C Amen.

THANKSGIVING

M Heavenly Father, we have received from your Son his body once offered, now given in bread; his blood once shed, now given in wine. Reassure us of your love and forgiveness through this means of grace, so that we may be comforted in our guilt, strengthened in our faith and affirmed in our hope that only comes through Jesus Christ, who died and was buried, but also rose and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Communion Cup Collection:

During the following hymn the ushers will come to you to gather your used communion cups. Please place your cups directly into the receptacle.

Hymn of the Day:

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Christian Worship, Hymn # 430

C Verse 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.**

C Verse 2 **♫** **Tell me, as you 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.**

C Verse 3 **♫** **If you think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see 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.**

✝ SEVEN STEPS TO THE GRAVE ✝

Traditionally the Good Friday service follows Jesus to the grave focusing on the seven words (sentences) he spoke from the cross. Today, we keep the traditional seven steps, but rather than focus on the seven words from the cross we look at the last hours of Good Friday, each hour a step closer to the death sentence and the final hours of God carrying out divine judgment upon our sins by condemning our innocent Savior. The hours used below are approximations that have been surmised from the Biblical record.

✝ 1 – 2 AM ✝

Jesus' Arrest and Trial before Annas

John 18:1-24

¹When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

²Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

⁵"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

⁶When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."



²² When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

²³ "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Song Response:

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Christian Worship, Hymn # 425

 Verse 1  **Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray**

(Our second verse is printed on the next page.)

C Verse 3

♪ **Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

† 2 – 3 AM †

Jesus' Trial before Caiaphas Begins Matthew 26:57-63,67f

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

⁶³ But Jesus remained silent.

⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?"

Song Response:

Christ, the Life of All the Living

Christian Worship, Hymn # 396

C Verse 2 **♪** **Thou, ah, thou has 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.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

C Verse 3

♪ **Thou has 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.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.**



† 3 – 4 AM †

Jesus' Conviction from Caiaphas

Luke 22:63-23:1

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.

⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

⁶⁷ "If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You say that I am."

⁷¹ Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."


^{23:1} Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.

Song Response:

He Stood Before the Court

Christian Worship, Hymn # 408

 Verse 1

 **He stood before the court
On trial instead of us;
He met its pow'r to hurt,
Condemned to face the cross—
Our King, accused of treachery;
Our God, abused for blasphemy!**

(Our second verse is printed on the next page.)



Verse 2

♪ **These are the crimes that tell**

The tale of human guilt;

Our sins, our death, our hell—

On these the case was built.

To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays dumb.

The guilt is ours; no answers come.

† 4 – 5 AM †

Jesus' Initial Charges before Pilate

John 18:28-38

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

³⁰ "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

³¹ Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. ³² This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴ "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.

Song Response:


Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

Christian Worship, Hymn # 419

 Verse 2  **Tell how, when at length the fullness**

**Of th' appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman,
Left for us his Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience
Shone as light amidst the gloom.**

 Verse 3

 **Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing,
Did the work and met his death;
Like a lamb he humbly yielded
On the cross his dying breath.**

† 5 – 6 AM †

Jesus' Trial before Herod

Luke 23:4-16

⁴Then Pilate announced, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

⁵But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

⁶On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.



⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

¹³Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

Song Response:

O Dearest Jesus

Christian Worship, Hymn # 432

 Verse 1  **O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession—
What dark transgression?** *(Verse three is printed on the next page.)*

C Verse 3

♪ **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.**

† 6 – 7 AM †

Jesus' Death Sentence from Pilate

John 19:1-16

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

⁴Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

⁶As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

⁷The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.


“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Song Response:

Upon the Cross Extended

Old Christian Worship, Hymn # 113

Verse 3  **‘Tis I who should be smitten,
My doom should here be written:
Bound hand and foot in hell.
The fetters and the scourging,
The floods around you surging,
‘Tis I who deserve them well.**

(Our second verse is printed on the next page.)

C Verse 4

♪ **A crown of thorns you're wearing,
My shame and scorn you're bearing
That I might ransomed be.
My bondsman, ever willing,
My place with patience filling,
From sin and guilt has made me free.**

† 9 AM – 3 PM †

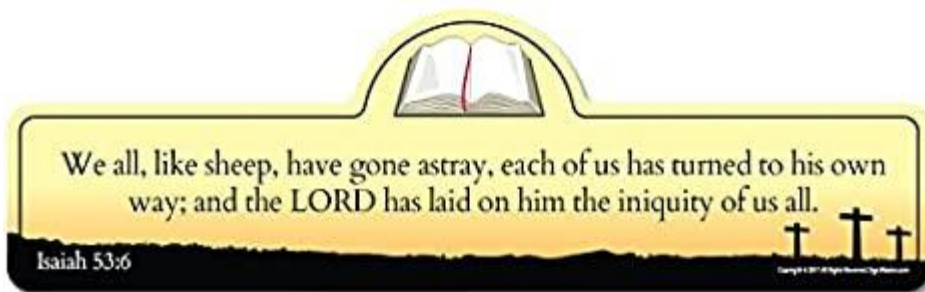
Jesus' Crucifixion and Death

Mark 15:20-25

²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.



† 1 A Word of Forgiveness †

“Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

(God’s Will, God’s Work)

Luke 23:34

† 2 A Word of Promise †

“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

(No wait, No wondering, No work, No want)

Luke 23:43

† 3 A Word of Love †

“Dear woman, here is your son.” “Here is your mother.”

(still sinless, still selfless)

John 19:26,27

† 4 A Word of ??? †

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

(suffering, separated, singular)

Matthew 27:46

† 5 A Word of Fulfillment †

“I am thirsty.”

(feeling, fulfilling)

John 19:28

† 6 A Word of Completion †

“It is finished.”

(completion, conquest)

John 19:30

† 7 A Word of Confidence †

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

(confident, comforted, comfortable)

Luke 23:46

AN EIGHTH WORD

M There is in one sense, an eighth word of Good Friday. It's the word spoken by the Jewish leaders and Pontius Pilate regarding the tomb of Jesus. To anyone who had witnessed the events of that day, this word might have appeared to be the last word—the slamming and sealing shut of a tomb, a life, and all hope. But God gets the last word. He always does. And although the solemnness of death and burial will be fresh in our minds as we leave today, we know better than to go home without hope. We go home knowing that this last word of Good Friday is actually a good word, because it ensures that the only way someone could come out of that tomb would be if he were the very Son of God. It assures us that the tomb will be empty on Sunday morning for only one reason: because our Savior was not the victim here, but the victor! He gave himself over to death to defeat it. Hear now the eighth word of Good Friday:

† 3 PM – 7 PM †

Jesus' Burial

Matthew 27:57-66

⁵⁷ As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵ “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

✝ *The Christ Candle is not extinguished, but merely removed signifying his burial.* ✝

CONCLUSION

M These are the words and wonders of our Savior’s death. We depart in silent hope this evening, counting his love and trusting his promises.

G **Amen.**

DEPART IN SILENCE

The Christ candle has been removed signifying his burial. That is where we leave our Lord this evening—in the tomb. We depart this service in sober and silent reflection to contemplate the awesome sacrifice that our Lord has made for us. (There will be no post-service announcements, nothing to detract from the solemnity of our Lord’s death as we leave in quiet hope.)

Join us for Easter!

Easter Sunrise — 6:00 AM

Easter Breakfast — 7:00 AM

Easter Festival — 8:00 & 10:15 AM

Our thanks to Mrs. Charmaine Wagner for leading us in worship as our organist.