



**Welcome to  
Grace Lutheran Church  
April 18th, 2025  
Founded 1924**



## ~A TENEBRAE SERVICE

*To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient Church held a special service in the last days in Holy Week, called Tenebrae. The word means "darkness". This service is an adaptation of the ancient order dating from the 8th century. Throughout our service tonight, the candles at the altar will be extinguished to symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. One candle burns at the end of the service to symbolize that even in the midst of death and darkness, the forces of hell shall not prevail against the Light of Christ. His resurrection is sure. He lives eternally. And we, too, shall live!*

*\*Please stand.*

## ~THE INVITATION

O come and mourn with me awhile; O come ye to the Savior's side; O come, together let us mourn; Jesus, our love, is crucified.

Have we no tears to shed for him, while soldiers scoff and foes deride? Ah! Look how patiently he hangs; Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

How fast his hands and feet are nailed; his blessed tongue with thirst is tied, his failing eyes are blind with blood; Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

Seven times seven he spoke, seven words of love; and all three hours his silence cried for mercy on the souls of men; Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

O break, O break, hard heart of mine! Thy weak self-love and guilty pride his Pilate and his Judas were: Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

A broken heart, a fount of tears, ask, and they will not be

denied; a broken heart love's cradle is: Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

O love of God! O sin of man! In this dread act your strength is tried; and victory remains with love; for he, our Love, is crucified.

~INVOCATION

~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

O the old rugged cross so despised by the world  
Has a wondrous attraction for me  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary; *Chorus*

In the old rugged cross stained with blood so divine  
A wondrous beauty I see  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died  
To pardon and sanctify me; *Chorus*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away  
Where His glory forever I'll share; *Chorus*

**~THE LITANY OF THE PASSION**

**P:** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**P:** O God the Father in Heaven:

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

**P:** O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world:

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

**P:** God, the Holy Spirit:

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

**P:** Jesus, Son of the living God:

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

**P:** From all evil;

**C: O Jesus, deliver us**

**P:** From sudden, unprepared, or evil death; from the snares of the devil; from anger, hatred or ill will; from everlasting death

**C: O Jesus, deliver us.**

**P:** By the mystery of Your incarnation; by Your most holy life and conversation; by Your most bitter Passion and death; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your thrice-repeated prayer; by Your bonds and stripes; by Your sacred body buffeted and smitten; by the spitting upon Your adorable face;

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

**P:** By the false judgment pronounced upon You by Caiaphas; with Your abuse by Herod; by the shameful stripping of Your garments; by Your painful crown of thorns; by Your purple robe of mockery; by Your most unjust condemnation;

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

**P:** By the beating of Your head; by Your bloody footprints; by the place of death; by the tearing off of Your garments; by the cruel straining of Your sacred limbs; by Your dread crucifixion.

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: We poor sinners beg You to hear us;

**C: O most loving Jesus.**

P: That being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness; that we may not glory except in Your cross; that we may take our cross daily and follow You; that Your blood may cleanse us from dead works to serve You, the living God; that looking to Your example, we may follow Your steps; that being partakers of Your sufferings, we may take part also in Your glory.

**C: We beg You to hear us, O Jesus.**

P: O Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world:

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world:

**C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world:

**C: Grant us Your peace.**

P: We adore You, we bless You, O Jesus:

**C: Because by Your cross and Passion You have redeemed the world.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who at the sixth hour was lifted on the cross for the redemption of the world and shed Your blood for the remission of sins, we humbly ask You that by the virtue and merits of Your most holy life, Passion and death You would grant us grace to enter into the gates of Paradise with joy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*\*Please be seated.*

~The Homily

~HYMN - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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.

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.

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?

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!

#### **++ A SERVICE OF DARKNESS ++**

**P:** Tonight we would like to turn back time to that first Good Friday to try to relive in a brief hour, the emotions that those who lived it once must have had. Recall in spirit how, as the sun climbed toward its zenith that morning, they had fastened Him to the cross with great nails. At mid-day darkness covered the earth. At three o'clock He yielded up His Spirit. Then Joseph and Nicodemus begged His lifeless body from Pontius Pilate. Quickly they took it down from the cross, and Carefully laid it to rest in the unused tomb. A watch was established, The Roman seal set on the great stone. "It is finished."

**L:** Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, (Romans 8:32a)

**C: Will He not also give us everything else?**  
(Romans 8:32b)

#### **++ DARKNESS OF MAN'S BETRAYAL ++**

**~FIRST READING**

**Matthew 26:47-50**

*"Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" The tragic events of that night begin, in terms of men, with Judas of Kerioth. Judas was one of the twelve, and in his twisted mind, he thought the Miracle-worker could free Himself. So for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave, Jesus was made available to his captors. "Now Jesus is becoming the outcast One. Men have begun to turn on Him. Among men, one of the disciples, His inner circle, gave Him into the hands of the enemy. Is there a greater tragedy in life than to have one, whom one has loved, turn to oppose?"*

**~HYMN - Glory Be to Jesus**

Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains,  
Poured for me the life blood from His sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion, infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment did the world redeem.

**L:** He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life Was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for The rebellion of my people. (Isaiah 53:7-8)

C: He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.  
Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that  
he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in  
midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of  
my people. (Isaiah 53:12b, 8)

*[First Candle is Extinguished]*

++ DARKNESS OF THE CHURCH'S REJECTION ++

~SECOND READING

Matthew 26:62-68

*Then His chosen Church rejected Him. Caiaphas, the High Priest, rose and tearing His garments, cried out, "This man has blasphemed God!" His Church made this accusation against Him! ..... Can you feel the heart-break of this? He, as God, nourished, blessed, corrected, helped His church against countless enemies. Into her keeping He had placed the sacred trust of the promised Messiah. Now that the Messiah had come, she cries out against Him, "This man has blasphemed God," and makes her preparations to have Him put to death.*

~HYMN - Go to Dark Gethsemane

Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.



**L:** Weep like a bride dressed in black, mourning the death of her husband... Weep and moan, you evil shepherds Roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock! The time of your slaughter has arrived; you will fall and shatter like a fragile vase... The day of the Lord is near, the day when destruction comes from the Almighty. How terrible that Day will be!  
(Joel 1:8-15)

**C:** Dress yourselves in burlap and weep, you priests! Wail, you who serve before the altar! Come, spend the night in burlap, you ministers of my God. For there is no grain or wine to offer at the Temple of your God. (Joel 1:13)

[Second Candle is Extinguished]

++ DARKNESS OF THE NATION'S REJECTION ++

~THIRD READING

Luke 23:6-11

*Herod would have none of Him. Herod was "the Chosen people," being the nominal head. But Herod mocked Him - and sent Him back to Pilate. Has your nation ever declared you an outlaw to it? Are you a person without a country? One by one, they are leaving Him. When you try to feel the awful pangs of the person who has no home, you begin to feel what He felt that night.*

~HYMN - AH, HOLY JESUS

Ah, holy Jesus, hast thou offended  
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.

L: Arise, O Jerusalem, put off thy garments of joy; cast up dust upon thy head and gird yourself with sackcloth.

C: For in these has been slain the Savior of Israel.

*[Third Candle is Extinguished]*

++ DARKNESS OF THE WORLD'S REJECTION ++

~FOURTH READING

Luke 23:20-24

*Pilate, washed his hands of Him. He knew Him to be innocent, but he delivered Him to be crucified. In Pilate, is the world's rejection. The last human straw to which He could cling, the final ally to whom He could turn, His last chance of appeal, and it is gone. Now only the Way of Sorrows lies before Him. The way of Sorrows - the heavy cross, the wailing women, the taunting multitude, the bitter wine, the thorns, the nails, now only the cross.*

~HYMN - O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

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.

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.

L: My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead. (Psalm 22:15)

C: O Lord, do not stay far away! You are my strength; come quickly to my aid! (Psalm 22:19)

*[Fourth Candle is Extinguished]*

++ DARKNESS OF THE GOD'S REJECTION ++

~FIFTH READING

Matthew 27:45-46

*Only once has it happened in all the history of man. Only once has God forsaken a man, and that man was He. Try, but you cannot imagine what it means to be forsaken of God, for low, He is with you always, even unto the ends of the world. That's why that cry from the cross is such an agonizing cry. This was the final depth to which He could go that day in which He was our substitute in death*

~SILENT MEDITATION

~HYMN - Amazing Grace

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

*[Fifth Candle is Extinguished]*

++ DARKNESS OF DEATH ++

~SIXTH READING

Luke 23:46

*Then, when He had cried with a loud voice, He bowed His weary head, and yielded up His Spirit. Forsaken of man and God in His supreme sacrifice, for God and for man, He died. And when the soldiers came, they pierced His side, and out came blood and water.*

L: I am as good as dead, like a strong man with no strength left. (Psalm 88:4)

C: You have thrown me into the lowest pit, into the darkest depths. (Psalm 88:6)

~HYMN - IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

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In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.

*[Sixth Candle is Extinguished]*

**~SEVENTH READING**

**Matthew 27:57-60**

*They took Him down from the cross then. Gently and tenderly Joseph and Nicodemus took His body down and carried it to the unused tomb. Then, the Passover being at hand, they went to their homes to keep the ancient feast. Sadness and gloom and sorrow filled their being. Him whom they loved was dead.*

**~HYMN - Were You There**

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?

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?

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?

*Behold, one light still burns. They are not all gone out. Nor have they forever taken the life of my Lord. The hellish crew, death, the grave, these shall not hold Him, for in three days He will raise up again the temple which they sought to destroy. They are not the victor! It is He who triumphs! Yes, in the chaos of the elements, through the quaking earth, the rending veil, the opening graves, He lives! Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee.*

***[The Lord's Prayer to be prayed in silence.]***

When all have spoken a silent prayer, let them depart in silence from this place.

The Peace of the Lord go with you.

*Join us for worship again:*

***Easter Sunday – Celebration Service at  
10am; Breakfast begins at 8:30am***