

"THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS"



A GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE **West Side Baptist Church of Topeka, Ks** **April 18, 2025**

A Tenebrae service is a somber, ancient Christian tradition, particularly during Holy Week, that commemorates Jesus' suffering and death. The service is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles, starting with many lit candles and ending in near darkness, symbolizing the darkness that came over the world at Christ's death. Scripture readings and hymns are interspersed with the extinguishing of candles, culminating in the removal or extinguishing of the final Christ candle, leaving the church in darkness.

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

***GREETING & CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed be our God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever and ever. Amen.

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering[a] and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. **The righteous one,[h] my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.**

Therefore, I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors;

Yet he bore the sin of many and made intercessions for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:1-12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

***OPENING SONG #251**

“Lead Me to Calvary” Stz. 1-2

DUNCANNON

***OPENING PRAYER**

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for the people everywhere according to their needs:

† The Holy Church of Christ throughout the world

† For All Nations and Peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among us

† For All Who Suffer and Afflicted in body, in mind, or in spirit

† For All Who Have Not Received the Gospel of Christ

† For All Who Grieve, are Lonely, Isolated, in Prison, Forsaken, or Sorrowful of Heart

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Let us remember Jesus:

Who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us,

Who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled,

Who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

May we ever be grateful for Jesus Christ and what he has done for us.

Let us remember Jesus:

Who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him and for the perfecting of those who received him,

Who loved all people, and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him,

Who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God.

May we ever be grateful for Jesus Christ and what he has done for us.

Let us remember Jesus:

Who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross,

Who God has exalted,

Who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus Christ and what he has done for us,
And continues to do for us.**

SONG #283

"Were You There?" (Stz. 1)

WERE YOU

THERE

THE WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Words of Jesus: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
Luke 23:34.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 23:26-34: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to

the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

PERSONAL REFLECTION: PSALM 51

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your
sentence
and blameless when you pass
judgment.

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived
me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my
secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be
clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than
snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed
rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within
me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your
presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from
me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your
salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your
ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your
deliverance.

THE WORDS OF SALVATION

Words of Jesus: "Today you will be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 23:35-43: And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

SONG #

"Jesus, Remember Me"

TAIZE COMMUNITY

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, Collect for Good Friday (Church, 2007)

THE WORD OF RELATIONSHIP

Words of Jesus: "Dear woman, here is your son."
"Here is your mother." John 19:26-27



"Dear woman, here is your son."
"Here is your mother."

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 3:31-35 (NRSV): Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

SONG #284 **"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"** (Stz. 1, 2, 3) *PASSION CHORALE*

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

THE WORD OF ABANDONMENT

Words of Jesus: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 27:45-54: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

A READING FROM THE PSALTER

Psalm 22:1-11 (NRSV)

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

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

"Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver - let him rescue the one in whom
he delights!"

Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's
breast.

On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my
God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

HOMILY

"The Anguish of Abandonment"
Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

THE WORD OF DISTRESS

Words of Jesus: "I am thirsty." John 19:28



The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John 19:28: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

SONG #169 "What Wondrous Love is This?" (Stz. 1-2) *APPALACHIAN FOLK HYMN*

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

THE WORD OF TRIUMPH

Words of Jesus: "It is finished." John 19:30



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John 19:30: When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

SONG #

"O How He Loves You and Me"

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

THE WORD OF REUNION

Words of Jesus: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 23:44-49: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Song #254

"Were You There?" (St. 3)

WERE YOU THERE

[Extinguish Christ Candle / Silence]

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

The Strepitus: (Latin for "great noise") is a loud noise made at the end of the Tenebrae service, often created by slamming a book, banging a hymnal, or stomping on the floor. It typically symbolizes the earthquake at the time of Christ's death or the rolling away of the stone from the tomb. This noise is a key element of the service, which also involves gradually extinguishing candles, reflecting the darkness surrounding Christ's passion.

Departure: After meditation, the congregation is asked to leave in silence.