

Good Friday



("The Crucifixion" Matthias Grunewald 1470-1528)

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted."

Isaih 53:4

Good Friday

18 April A+D 2025

The earliest name for this day is "Pascha" and refers to the Jewish Passover. Other names were, "Day of the Lord's Passion," "Day of the Absolution," and "Day of the Cross." The term "Good Friday" is more of an English expression and seeks to reflect the joy of completed redemption, rather than funeral gloom. Regardless of the name, this day has always been a day of the greatest solemnity and most devoted religious observance. The services on this day are stripped of festivity. The hymns of Lutheranism focus less on the gore and detailed sufferings of Christ and present more of a solemn rejoicing that "by His stripes we are healed." The Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Holy Week are the highest days for the Christian. This is our faith, this is our preaching, this is our confession: Jesus Christ crucified and risen for our salvation.

The Office of Tenebrae (which means darkness or shadows) is a Holy Week service which dates back to the seventh or eighth century. This service makes symbolic use of darkness and silence to impress upon the hearts and minds of the worshippers the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice. While symbolism over the years has varied slightly from place to place, tonight we will consider the symbolism of the following:

1. The somber mood symbolizes our penitent grief and mourning for our sins which caused our Lord's great suffering.
2. The dim lighting symbolizes the three hours of darkness which overshadowed the crucifixion.
3. The gradual extinguishing of the candles symbolizes the denial, abandonment and forsaking of Christ.
4. The sudden closing of the book symbolizes the sealing of the tomb, the clear sign that the meaning of the cross was fulfilled, "It is finished."
5. The Christ candle's exit symbolizes our Lord's death and its return symbolizes our Lord's conquering of death through the resurrection.

In keeping with the solemnity of the office; there is no prelude or postlude music. Everyone enters and leaves the church in complete silence.

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During the singing of the reproaches please stand for the procession of the cross, symbolic of Christ's presence among us.

The Reproaches of Christ Pastor and Choir

Hymn: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" LSB # 434 vs. 1

The Reproaches of Christ Pastor and Choir

Hymn: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" LSB # 434 vs. 2

The Reproaches of Christ Pastor and Choir

Hymn: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" LSB # 434 vs. 3

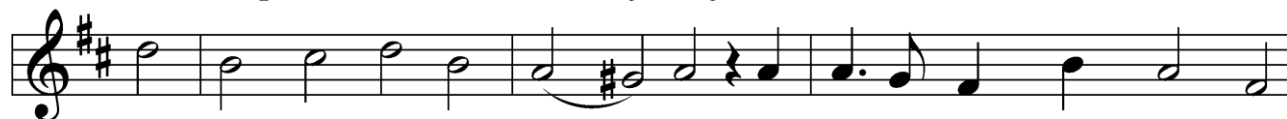
434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Sentences and Collects:

Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him,

Cong: And by His stripes we are healed.

Pastor: 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.

Cong: Amen.

Pastor: We all, like sheep, have gone astray;

Cong: And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Pastor: Almighty and most merciful God, give us grace so to contemplate the Passion of our Lord that we may find in it the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Cong: Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Setting by Mark Knickelbein

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

452 O Perfect Life of Love



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
 2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
 3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
 4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
 His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
 All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.
 Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

- 5 In perfect love He dies;
 For me He dies, for me.
 O all-atoning Sacrifice,
 I cling by faith to Thee.
- 6 In ev'ry time of need,
 Before the judgment throne,
 Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
 Thy merits, not mine own.
- 7 Yet work, O Lord, in me
 As Thou for me hast wrought;
 And let my love the answer be
 To grace Thy love has brought.

This melody is taken from the 1925 100th
 Year, William Brewster, c. 1925-1926
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon ~ “How Far?”

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Offering ~ “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

I. The Betrayal and Arrest of Christ St. John 18:1-11

The first candles are extinguished.

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

sts. 1-2, 5-6



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
5 If my sins give me a - larm And my con - science grieve me,
6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; Help me bear my cross - es,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
Let Your cross my fear dis - arm; Peace of con - science give me.
Learn - ing hum - ble - ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss - es.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Help me see for - give - ness won By Your ho - ly pas - sion.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have com - pas - sion!
That I may in heav'n a - bove Sing Your praise for - ev - er.

This hymn is a traditional hymn, adapted by the composer, 1885-1925, etc.
Text: Michael W. Smith, c. 1970-1975
© 1975 by Michael W. Smith

II. The Denial of Christ

St. John 18:12-27

The second candles are extinguished

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

sts. 1–5, 15



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of	what	great	crime	hast	Thou	to	make	con	-
They	give	Thee	gall	to	drink,	they	still	de	-
Yea,	all	the	wrath,	the	woe,	Thou	dost	in	-
The	Mas	- ter	pays	the	debt	His	ser	-	vants



fes	-	sion,	What	dark	trans	-	gres	-	sion?
cry		Thee;	They	cru	-	ci	-	fy	Thee.
her	-	it,	This	I		do		mer	it.
owe		Him,	Who	would		not		know	Him.

5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
 The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
 Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
 God is committed.

15 And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
I, too, shall praise Thee.

The third candles are extinguished.

453 Upon the Cross Extended

sts. 1, 6–7



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
6 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to
7 Your cross I place be - fore me; Its sav - ing



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
You for - ev - er, I am no long - er mine.
pow'r re - store me, Sus - tain me in the test.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
To You I glad - ly ten - der All that my life can
It will, when life is end - ing, Be guid - ing and at -



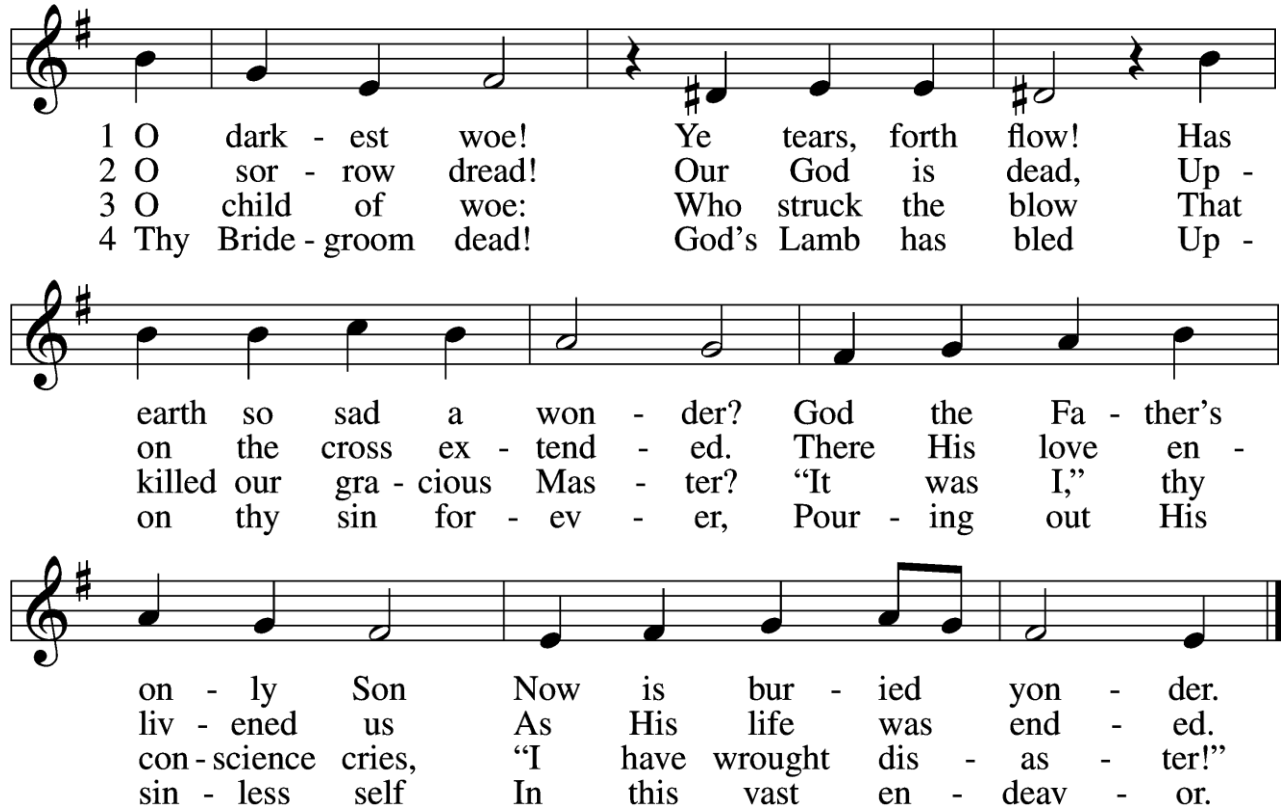
giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
ren - der And all I have to You re - sign.
tend - ing My way to Your e - ter - nal rest.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1627; 7th ed. John Kelly, 1973-90, ab.
Tune: Heinrich Schütz, c. 1620-1677
Text and tune: Public domain

IV. The Sentencing of Christ to death.St. John 19:1-16a

The fourth candles are extinguished.

448 O Darkest Woe



1 O dark - est woe! Ye tears, forth flow! Has
 2 O sor - row dread! Our God is dead, Up -
 3 O child of woe: Who struck the blow That
 4 Thy Bride - groom dead! God's Lamb has bled Up -

earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's
 on the cross ex - tend - ed. There His love en -
 killed our gra - cious Mas - ter? "It was I," thy
 on thy sin for - ev - er, Pour - ing out His

on - ly Son Now is bur - ied yon - der.
 liv - ened us As His life was end - ed.
 con - science cries, "I have wrought dis - as - ter!"
 sin - less self In this vast en - deav - or.

5 Such innocence!
 His countenance
 A fount of faith undying!
 Worlds on worlds cannot contain
 Grief at Him here lying.

6 O Virgin's Son,
 What Thou hast won
 Is far beyond all telling:
 How our God, detested, died,
 Hell and devil felling.

7 O Jesus Christ,
 Who sacrificed
 Thy life for lifeless mortals:
 Be my life in death and bring
 Me to heaven's portals!

V. The Crucifixion of Christ

St. John 19:16b-24

The fifth candles are extinguished.

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 1–3, 5



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
How doth Thy face now lan-guish That once was bright as morn!
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint-ing be,



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

Text: 450. Reprinted of Christian, 1801–1815. German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1613–1676. In: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, 450.
Tune: When Love Becomes, 1548–1622.
Text: © 1995 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. LHM hymn license no. 11000102.
Tune: 450, 450.

VI. The Death of Christ

St. John 19:25-30

Rise out of respect for the death and burial of our Lord

The sixth candles are extinguished.

Choir: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Setting by Peter Niedmann

VII. The Burial of Christ.

St. John 19:31-42

Sit

Choir: “Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart”

LSB #708 verse 3

Exit of the Paschal Candle

Bidding Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer *prayed softly by all*

Return of the Paschal Candle

Silent Prayer

The congregation leaves in silence.