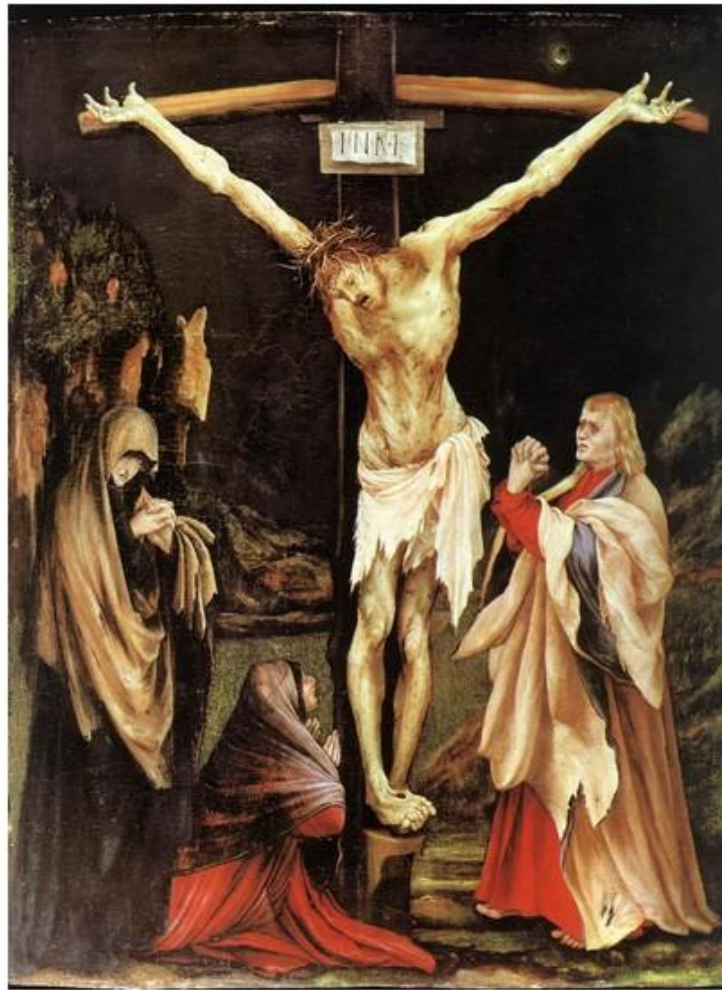


Good Friday



(“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

3 April A+D 2026

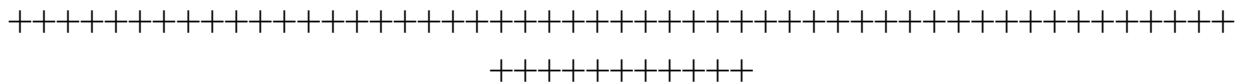
The earliest name for this day is "Pascha" and refers to the Jewish Passover. Other names were, "Day of the Lord's Passion," "Day of the Absolution," and "Day of the Cross." The term "Good Friday" is more of an English expression and seeks to reflect the joy of completed redemption, rather than funeral 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.



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

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: "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"
Wienhorst

Setting by Richard

Epistle Lesson

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: "My Song Is Love Unknown"

LSB #430 vs. 1-2, 4-5, 7



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and
5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -
7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their
way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they
vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these
slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes
Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.
That He His foes From thence might free.
I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

Text: Samuel Chroma, c. 1624-1681
Tune: John W. Waller, 1776-1822
Text: Public Domain
Image: © The Church of the Holy Spirit, LSB Hymn Lyrics no. 11000022

Sermon ~ "Truth is on Trial."

John 18:33-38

Offering ~ "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Setting by Estera Waid

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.

Text: Adapted from Luther, 1524; 41. August Gail, 1841-1851, ed.
Tune: Michael Vesper, c. 1700-1800
Text and tune Public domain

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.

III. The Trial of Christ

St. John 18:28-40

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, 1607-76; tr. John Kelly, 1833-90, alt.

Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450-1517

Text and tune: Public domain

IV. The Sentencing of Christ to death.

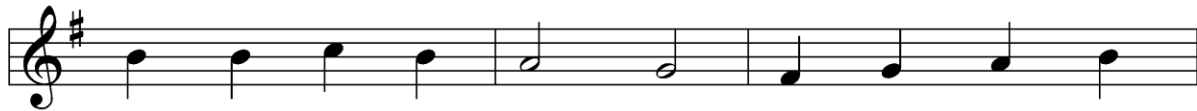
St. John 19:1-16a

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 weigh-ed down,
2 How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn!
3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer-ed 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: 4th Edition of Christos, 1891-1913; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1673-76; in The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, 450.
Tune: 4th Edition of Christos, 1891-1913.
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Tune: 450, 450/450

VI. The Death of Christ

St. John 19:25-30

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

The sixth candles are extinguished.

Choir: "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow" *Setting by John A. Behnke*

VII. The Burial of Christ.

St. John 19:31-42

Sit

Choir: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"

LSB #708 vs. 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