

Today's Good Friday service is called a "Tenebrae" service, dating back to the ninth century. It includes meditations on Jesus' seven words from the cross and the extinguishing of a candle after each meditation, representing how Jesus' life ebbs away on the cross until he dies.

The word "tenebrae" is a Latin word for "darkness." That's an appropriate word for Good Friday, as the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the world as Jesus suffered. But what truly made that a dark day was God suffering and dying for sins he had not committed, for your sins and mine. It is appropriate that we think about that darkness today with repentant hearts that grieve over our sins, but also rejoice at the profound love of God in the profound cost of our redemption.

At the conclusion of the service, there will be a loud sound (in Latin "strepitus"), which symbolizes the earthquake at Jesus' death, or the closing of his tomb. We will leave the church in silence, contemplating the enormity of the death of God the Son, and contemplating the enormity of God's redeeming love that he would die for sinners like us.

Go in solemn peace tonight;

Return in Easter joy Sunday morning!

Two Separate Services for Easter Sunday Worship (April 5th)

Easter Dawn Service—7:00am

Breakfast served between services from 8:15-10:00AM

Easter for Kids activity between 9:00 & 9:45AM

Easter Day Service—10:30am

Interested in learning more about God's Word?

If you would like to learn more about your Savior, the Bible, or Emanuel congregation, we will have a course called "Basics of Christianity" on Sundays, starting in early September. To help plan ahead, speak with a pastor, if interested.

This course will discuss what Scripture says regarding various aspects of our lives. Over the course of the class, we will not just discuss "what" the Bible says, but more importantly the "so what." It is important to know what the Bible says about us and about God and about heaven and about church and so many other things. But more impactful is to know the *so what*—how it impacts your life. How it impacts the assurance of your soul's salvation. How it impacts the way you serve your community. How it impacts the way you handle disappointment. How it impacts the way you interact with your friends.... And your enemies.

You are always invited to discuss any questions you have about the Bible and Christianity with our pastors.

GOOD FRIDAY – April 3, 2026



HIS FINAL STEPS
LED HIM TO THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY: SERVICE OF SEVEN WORDS

OPENING HYMN: 420:1,4-6 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

INVOCATION *Please stand*

Pastor: We worship in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.



A RESPONSIVE READING FROM ISAIAH 53

P: Who has believed our message;

C: and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

P: Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows:

C: Yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted.

P: But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities:

C: The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

P: We all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way:

C: And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

P: After the suffering of His soul He will see the light of life and be satisfied.

C: By knowledge of Him my righteous servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities.

P: Therefore, I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong:

C: Because He poured out His life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors.

P: For He bore the sins of many:

C: And made intercession for the transgressors.

P: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

C: Lord, give us peace. Amen.

P: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us:

C: 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.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN: 429:4-7 O Sacred Head Now Wounded

STREPITUS (The loud noise signifying the closing of Jesus' tomb, which ends this service, after which the congregation is to exit the service quietly.)



desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly dangers that threaten us.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ Jesus.

C: Amen. Father, protect us.

P: Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from all nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen. Christ, redeem us.

P: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you, whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. We also ask that you would move us to love them and show them mercy and kindness.

C: Amen. Spirit, work with powerful grace in them and us.

HYMN: 405 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

**On my heart imprint your image / Blessed Jesus, King of grace
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures / Have no pow'r to hide your
face.**

**Let the clear inscription be / Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

Please be seated

THE SEVEN WORDS OF THE CROSS

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JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES

- 1) **Jesus, in your dying woes, Even while your life-blood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2) **Savior, for us ever pray, Grant us mercy ev'ry day,
Covering all we do and say: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3) **Oh, may we who mercy need Be like you in heart and deed,
Moved by grace, from sins set free! Hear us, holy Jesus.**

First Word:

Luke 23:26-34

26 As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28 Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' 30 Then "they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"' 31 For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" 32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out

with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

1ST MEDITATION

First candle is extinguished



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JESUS, PITYING THE SIGHS

- 1) **Jesus, pitying the sighs Of the thief who near Him dies,
Promising him Paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2) **May we in our guilt and shame Still your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on your name: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3) **May our hearts to You incline, Seeing in your cross the sign
Of redeeming love divine: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Second Word:

Luke 23:38-43

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: *THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS*. 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

2ND MEDITATION

Second candle is extinguished

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that in every adversity we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior’s work, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of all believers. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear it may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day we may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

C: Spirit, have mercy.

P: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

Silent prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the

Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Seventh Word:

Luke 23:33-46

³³When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: *THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS*. ³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” ⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

7TH MEDITATION

Seventh candle is extinguished



ELS CHOIR (1:00): *The Lamb* (Hymn 525 v1-4)

HYMN RESPONSE (6:30): 431 *O Perfect Life Of Love*

THE GATHERING OF OUR THANK-OFFERINGS

PRAYER

Please stand

P: Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

Silent prayer



III

JESUS, LOVING TO THE END

- 1) **Jesus, loving to the end, Her whose heart your sorrows rend,
And your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2) **May we in your sorrows share, For your sake all peril dare,
Trusting in your faithful care: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3) **May we all your loved ones be, All one holy family,
Bound in love and charity: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Third Word:

John 19:25-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

3RD MEDITATION

Third candle is extinguished



IV

JESUS, SUFF’RING PAIN UNKNOWN

- 1) **Jesus, suff’ring pain unknown, With our evil left alone,
While no light from heaven is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2) **When we seem to vainly pray And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our Stay: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3) **Though no Father seems to hear, Though no light our spirits cheer,**

May we know that God is near: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Fourth Word:

Matthew 27:45-49

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). 47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

4TH MEDITATION

Fourth candle is extinguished

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V

JESUS, IN YOUR THIRST AND PAIN

- 1) **Jesus, in Your thirst and pain, While your wounds your life-blood drain,
Thirsting more for us to gain: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2) **Thirst for us in mercy still, All your holy word fulfill,
Satisfy your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3) **May we thirst your love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Fifth Word

John 19:28, 29

28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

5TH MEDITATION

Fifth candle is extinguished

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VI

JESUS, ALL OUR RANSOM PAID

- 1) **Jesus, all our ransom paid, All your Father's will obeyed,
By your sufferings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2) **Save us in our soul's distress, Be our Help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3) **Brighten all our heavenward way With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Sixth Word:

John 19:30

³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

6TH MEDITATION

Sixth candle is extinguished

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VII

JESUS, ALL YOUR LABOR VAST

- 1) **Jesus, all Your labor vast, All your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 2) **When grim death would make us cower, Guard us from the Tempter's
power,
Grant us peace in our last hour: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 3) **May your life and death supply Grace to live and grace to die,**