

Lord of Love Lutheran Church



April 15, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Tonight we will follow Christ on his agonizing journey toward the cross, which he took out of obedience to God's will and love. Our Tenebrae service will focus on the darkness and shadows lengthening as we recall the pain and suffering of our Lord as his life in the flesh came to an end and his body was laid to rest. We will extinguish candles and the lights around us along the way. When the story ends, so will the candlelight be extinguished, and we will leave in silence.

Our Gathering

Announcements

****Procession of the Cross/Confession***

Behold the Cross of Christ!

Christ's First Address to Us and Our Response

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross.

O my people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Silence

Christ's Second Address to Us and Our Response

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink.

O my people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord have mercy. O Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Silence

Christ's Third Address to Us and Our Response

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God?

O my people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Silence

Song of the Suffering Servant – Isaiah 53:4-9

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to be given over to 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Passion of our Lord According to St. John

The Garden – John 18:1-11

First candle is extinguished.

Prayer: Almighty and eternal God, when life is questioned, threatened, or we find ourselves wondering what to do next, help us to call upon our Savior, Jesus Christ, to save us and guide us, and point the way in which we are to follow. So as we lift up our hopes and concerns to you, we also pray with the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Peter's Denial – John 18:12-27

Second candle is extinguished.

Prayer: Merciful God, you know all our faults, and how valiant and strong in the faith we can be one minute, and how fear-filled and selfish we can be the next. Cast us not away from your presence, even when we shamefully deny you and turn from your ways. Help us to turn back to you by confessing our sins, and relying on your steadfast love and mercy to set us free. Help raise us anew in you, remembering always that through dying to ourselves in baptism, daily we will find new life in you. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Hymn: "Ah, Holy Jesus" ELW 349

Jesus Before Pilate – John 18:28-38a

Third candle is extinguished.

Prayer: God of truth, when we hear the accusing words, "What have you done?" we look to you and know the truth, that we have done many things wrong, and that the good we have done is not enough. May we lean into our questions and struggles with faith, and find our answers in your signs of love and grace given for us in Jesus Christ. Be with those in power and authority and grant them your wisdom, that they may seek to do your will by searching for peace and justice for all and to find ways of sustainability and protection of all that you have created. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Silence

***The Sentence – John 18:38b-19:16**

Fourth candle is extinguished.

Please be seated.

Extended period of silence for meditation

Prayer: O Lord, what have we done? We confess that we are so easily swayed to let the fires of our anger burn, and find it easier to blame others and cause them to suffer, rather than to blame ourselves. In dealing with conflict, help us to reach out in love to learn, struggle, and aim for reconciliation with others, as you have chosen to do with us. Help us to seek to do your will, rather than our own. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Special Music: “Sonata in E minor, Op. 14, No. 5, Largo” Antonio Vivaldi

The Crucifixion – John 19:17-27

Fifth candle is extinguished.

Prayer: Beneath your cross, we contemplate the pain and shame you endured for us. We also see how you still looked upon those present at your death with love and longing for them to seek comfort in community and relationships gathered in your love. When a neighbor is suffering, help us to see them as a mother, father, sister or brother whom you have given to us to support, care for, and love unconditionally. Teach us to sit with others, even when we don’t know what to say. This day Lord, we especially lift up to you those whom we know are hurting, sick, or in need. Help us to love and comfort them as you have loved and comforted us. In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen.

Silence

The Death – John 19:28-30

Sixth candle is extinguished.

Prayer: Merciful God, our human nature is never satisfied. We continually thirst for more -- to have more, to see more, and to be more. Through the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed the way in which all wants come to an end, and how the peace that surpasses all understanding comes to us. So as our Lord cries, “It is finished” from the cross, help us to trust that it really was, is, and will forever more be finished through Jesus Christ our Lord. Hold us as we reach out and cling to this hope. In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen.

Hymn: “Were You There” ELW 353

The Piercing – John 19:31-37

Seventh candle is extinguished.

Prayer: Word of God, Word of life, we give thanks that as it was written as of old, through Christ your word is fulfilled and gives life as your Son's love and life were poured out for us as a drink offering. Lord, when we are empty as Christ's body was of life on Good Friday, may we turn to your Word and promises to renew and restore life everlasting to us.

Amen.

Silence

The Burial – John 19:38-42

Christ candle is put out

Prayer: Dear Lord, the only redeeming thing about covering up our loved ones in death is knowing and trusting that, by your word, the next thing our loved ones will know is your light and presence perpetually surrounding them. Tonight, as we leave in silence we wrap ourselves in this promise and we wait for the good news of Good Friday to be fulfilled on Easter, just as Christ promised it would. Until then, we are wrapped in the passion of our Lord, and contemplate the cold emptiness death has without the promise and hope of Easter. Hold us tightly in your grip as we sit in the darkness and silence of death this night in particular, and await the hope and joy of your promises to us to be fulfilled. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Service ends in silence and meditation.

Please depart in silence when you are ready to leave.

Thanks to those helping with the service today.

Pastor: Rev. Becky Sells

Reader: Dave Rieff

Organist: Carol Novak

Cello: Renae Rich

Technical Directors: Chris and Renae Rich

Sound Board: Jon Novak

Cross bearer/Jesus: Easton Lieberman

Lights: Kenn Garder

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