



Good Friday Service of Darkness
April 2, 2021

The Order of Divine Service

We gather in God's house with great awe and reverence to remember our Savior's suffering and death for us. As we hear Jesus declare as He takes His final breaths, *It is finished*, we rejoice that our salvation has been completely accomplished by our Lord's suffering and death.

The congregation gathers in silence.

Prelude

Ach Herr mich armen Sünder—J. Krebs

Bell

Collect for the Day

☞ 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.

☞ Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

In the eighth century B.C., Isaiah prophecies our Savior's suffering and death.

[The Lord says,] Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at You—His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall He sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? 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, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, 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; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Hymn *(on the next page)*

451

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

Gospel Reading

please stand John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Hymn

please remain standing **447 stanzas 16-18**

Jesus, all our ransom paid, All Your Father's will obeyed;
By Your sufferings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Save us in our soul's distress; Be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Brighten all our heav'nward way With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus.

Little Sermon

Hymn

452

O perfect life of love! All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above To do for us below.

No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one, The Scriptures have fulfilled.

No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
All forms of human grief and care Have pierced that tender heart.

And on His thorn-crowned head And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

In ev'ry time of need, Before the judgment throne,
Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, Thy merits, not mine own.
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.

Sermon

It Is Finished!

John 19:28-30

Hymn of Response

454 stanzas 1, 4, and 5

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, As a victim won the day.
Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world's redemption, For the weight that hung on thee!
Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.

Confession of Sins

please stand

- P** Beloved in the Lord. On this holy day our Lord Jesus shed His blood and submitted Himself to death on the cross. As we gather, we confess our sins to our heavenly Father and implore His forgiveness for the sake of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Forgive my sins, O Lord—forgive me the sins of my present and the sins of my past, the sins of my soul and the sins of my body; the sins which I have done to please myself, and the sins which I have done to please others. Forgive me my wanton and idle sins, forgive me my serious and deliberate sins, forgive me those sins which I know and those sins which I know not, the sins which I have labored so to hide from others that I have hid them from my own memory. Forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all. Of Your great mercy, let me be absolved, and of Your bountiful goodness let me be delivered from the bonds of all that by my frailty I have committed. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus, our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Prayers

Service of the Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of cross, that where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ...

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

please be seated

Distribution

Hymns: 448, 453, 439

448 O darkest woe! Ye tears, forth flow!
Has earth so sad a wonder?
God the Father's only Son Now is buried yonder.
O sorrow dread! Our God is dead,
Upon the cross extended.
There His love enlivened us As His life was ended.
O child of woe: Who struck the blow
That killed our gracious Master?
"It was I," thy conscience cries, "I have wrought disaster!"
Thy Bridegroom dead! God's Lamb has bled
Upon thy sin forever,
Pouring out His sinless self In this vast endeavor.
Such innocence! His countenance
A fount of faith undying!
Worlds on worlds cannot contain Grief at Him here lying.
O Virgin's Son, What Thou hast won
Is far beyond all telling:
How our God, detested, died, Hell and devil felling.
O Jesus Christ, Who sacrificed
Thy life for lifeless mortals:
Be my life in death and bring Me to heaven's portals!

453 Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended.
Your Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven Himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.
Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder
As blood streams from each pore.
Through grief beyond all knowing From His great heart came flowing
Sighs welling from its deepest core.

Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so sore abused You
And caused You all Your woe?
We all must make confession Of sin and dire transgression
While You no ways of evil know.

I caused Your grief and sighing By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered With which Your soul is cumbered,
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

Your soul in griefs unbounded, Your head with thorns surrounded,
You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring, The crown for me securing,
You healed my wounds and set me free.

Your cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to You forever,
I am no longer mine.
To You I gladly tender All that my life can render
And all I have to You resign.

Your cross I place before me; Its saving pow'r restore me,
Sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending, Be guiding and attending
My way to Your eternal rest.

439 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, What dark transgression?
They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.
Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.
What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.
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.
There was no spot in me by sin untainted;
Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me, Such woe it wrought me.
O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying While Thou wert dying.

O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer? What dare I offer?

For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee! Can I requite Thee?

Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;
I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly All fires unholy.

But since my strength will nevermore suffice me
To crucify desires that still entice me,
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me And reign within me!

I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor Henceforth forever.

Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,
I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.
I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me Nor death alarm me.

But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;
Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;
Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness Nor shame my weakness.

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

please remain seated

P Let us pray. We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon us, who have been fed with the true body and blood of Your Son given and shed for our sins, that we might ever rejoice in the gifts of Your pardon and salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

✠ Service of Darkness ✠

All Sing: **Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.**

Reading

John 18:1-11

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that

would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. So He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one."

Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?"

Hymn

450 stanza 1

The first candle is extinguished during the hymn.

O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

Reading

John 18:12-27

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, He entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. Jesus answered Him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said." When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?" Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Hymn

450 stanza 2

The second candle is extinguished during the hymn.

How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

Reading

John 18:28-40

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." Then Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Hymn

450 stanza 3

The third candle is extinguished during the hymn.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.

Reading

John 19:1-16a

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." The Jews answered Him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."

From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I

crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

Hymn

450 stanza 4

The fourth candle is extinguished during the hymn.

My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.

Reading

John 19:16b-24

So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things.

Hymn

450 stanza 5

The fifth candle is extinguished during the hymn.

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

Reading

please stand John 19:25-30

Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

please be seated

Hymn

450 stanza 6

The sixth candle is extinguished during the hymn.

My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

Reading

John 19:31-37

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.

For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on Him whom they have pierced."

Hymn

450 stanza 7

The seventh candle is extinguished during the hymn.

Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.

After the last hymn stanza, the church is darkened and the Christ candle is removed to symbolize the death of Christ. A loud sound is then heard to symbolize the sealing of the tomb and the burial of Christ. The Christ candle is then returned to the altar to signify that our Lord will be raised to life. The service concludes with these words spoken by the pastor: "We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world."

With the hope of the resurrection, we leave in silence, meditating on the death of Christ and in anticipation of the celebration of His resurrection on Easter.

As We Gather...

Today is the most somber day in the church year. We gather and leave in silence as the service for this evening moves us in quiet meditation upon the suffering and death of our Lord. The liturgy for this evening is in its simplest form, to further reinforce the character of this day.

This night of Jesus' death we also gather to receive the fruits of our Lord's death in the Holy Supper that He has given to His Church with the command, "Do this in remembrance of Me." Even though we are receiving Holy Communion on this night of sorrow, Communion remains a *celebration* of Christ's death and resurrection. As we approach the Lord's Table tonight, we give thanks that our Lord gave His body over to death on the cross *for us* and that He shed His blood on the cross *for our sin*.

Our service concludes with the service of Darkness. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ with the lighting of the Christ candle and candlelight services. On this night our church is lit with candles that are extinguished one at a time until only the Christ candle remains. However, the Christ candle is never extinguished since Christ's death is not the end. Rather, the Christ candle is removed from the church to symbolize His death, and then a loud sound is heard symbolizing the sealing of the tomb. The Christ candle is then returned to the altar in anticipation of our Lord's resurrection on Easter. It is with this hope and confidence that we leave, awaiting our return on Easter to celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

Easter Services

Saturday, April 3rd

4:45 PM COVID-Sensitive Festival Communion Service

Sunday, April 4th

6:30, 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM Festival Communion Services

11 AM Spanish Easter Service

No Christian Education classes on Easter Sunday