

# Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
830 N 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Tucson, AZ

April 3, 2015

# Good Friday Tenebrae Service

## The Service of Darkness

### **TENEBRAE**

*Tenebrae* is the Latin word for “darkness.” The *Officium Tenebrae*, the Service of Darkness, is a devotional and meditative service held on Good Friday to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The Service of Darkness is not a funeral service for Jesus but a time for adoration of the Lamb of God in which we celebrate his sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. The darkness in the church symbolizes the miraculous *Tenebrae*, the darkness which surrounded the cross and darkened the earth from noon until three o’clock on the day Jesus died.

### **SEVEN CANDLES**

There are seven candles in the front of the church. Throughout the service the candles are extinguished and the lights are dimmed representing the extinguishing of the life of Jesus. The seventh candle is not extinguished but it is removed from the chancel. Just as Christ’s body was hidden in the grave until the third day so also is the seventh candle removed from sight for a short time. It is returned to its place at the end of the service foreshadowing Christ’s return from death to life.

### **THE PASSION HISTORY**

The Passion History readings in tonight’s service are taken from the Wartburg Project’s Bible translation. This translation is being completed by WELS and ELS pastors and professors. It remains a draft that has not yet had its final editing. Our readings are a harmony, or combination, of the accounts recorded in the four Gospels. Previous lessons have been read at Grace during our midweek Lenten Worship Services. Tonight we consider the final two lessons.

### **SILENCE**

In keeping with the solemnity of the day, there is no pre-service or post-service music. The service begins in silence and ends in silence. Worshipers are invited to remain after the service for as long as they wish for prayer and meditation. All are asked to leave the sanctuary, the courtyard and the parking lot in silence. The stillness and darkness of tonight are intended to contrast with the bright and glorious celebration of Easter morning.

## **THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

**PRESERVICE: Silence for Meditation**

**STAND**

### **INVOCATION**

Minister: In the name of Jesus who loves us and died for us.

Congregation: **Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE READING**

M: Come let us worship the Lord,

C: **Who was obedient to death, even death on a cross.**

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

C: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

M: We live by faith in the Son of God,

C: **Who loved us and gave himself for us.**

M: Christ loved us and gave himself up for us

C: **As a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

## PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

M: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross.

C: Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*BE SEATED*

HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to You  
*Christian Worship #124*

SERMON “I Tell You the Truth...Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise” Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free  
*Christian Worship #123*

## THE PASSION HISTORY

### PART 1

Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with him to be executed. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means, “The place of a skull”). They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. They crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Now it was the third hour when they crucified him.

Pilate also had a sign written and fastened to the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the king of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Silence for meditation - First candle is extinguished.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING: PIANO DUET

Via Dolorosa  
Arranged by Mona Williams Coalter

*Down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem that day  
The soldiers tried to clear the narrow street.  
But the crowd pressed in to see  
A Man condemned to die on Calvary.*

*He was bleeding from a beating, there were stripes upon His back.  
And He wore a crown of thorns upon His head.  
And He bore with every step  
The scorn of those who cried out for His death.*

*(chorus)  
Down the Via Dolorosa, called the way of suffering  
Like a lamb came the Messiah, Christ the King,  
But He chose to walk that road out of His love  
For you and me.  
Down the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary.  
The blood that would cleanse the souls of all men  
Made its way to the heart of Jerusalem.*

## PART 2

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it. Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So this is what the soldiers did. Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for meditation - Second candle is extinguished.*

## HYMN

**Oh, Come, My Soul**  
*Christian Worship #99*

## PART 3

The people stood watching. And even the rulers were ridiculing him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the chosen one!" People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law and elders kept mocking him. They said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him. One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for meditation - Third candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

**Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted**  
*Christian Worship #127*

**PART 4**

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, 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, here is your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**M:** God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Silence for meditation - Fourth candle is extinguished.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING: PIANO AND VIOLIN**

**His Wondrous Love**  
*Arranged by Kathy Parra*  
*Incorporating the tunes of Christian Worship #110 and #120*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!*  
*What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*  
*What wondrous love is this*  
*That caused the Lord of bliss*  
*To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,*  
*To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*My song is love unknown*  
*My Savior's love to me,*  
*Love to the loveless shown*  
*That they might lovely be*  
*Oh, who am I That for my sake*  
*My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?*

**PART 5**

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The sun was darkened. At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "Listen, he is calling Elijah!" After this, knowing that everything had now been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." A jar full of wine vinegar was sitting there. Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with vinegar. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. When Jesus had taken the wine vinegar, he said, "It is finished."

**M:** God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Silence for meditation - Fifth candle is extinguished.*

**HYMN**

**Oh, Perfect Life of Love**  
*Christian Worship #138*

## PART 6

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" When he had said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. Tombs were opened and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city, and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and how he cried out and breathed his last, they were terrified and began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous. Truly this was the Son of God!"

All the crowds gathered to see this spectacle. When they saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. All those who knew him, and many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him were there watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. Since it was Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath. Because that Sabbath was special, they asked Pilate to have their legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. The man who saw it has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth. Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken." Again another Scripture says, "They will look at the one they pierced."

**M:** God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Silence for meditation - Sixth candle is extinguished.*

## VOICES OF GRACE

**Glory Be to Jesus**  
*Christian Worship #103*

## PART 7

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews. Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the council, was a good and righteous man. He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. He boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. When he learned it from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought a linen cloth, came and took Jesus' body away. Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about sixty-five pounds. They took Jesus' body and wrapped it along with the spices in linen cloths, according to Jewish burial custom.

There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. So because it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. Joseph took the body and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb's entrance and left.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee, followed after Joseph and observed the tomb and how his body was laid. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus were watching where he was laid. They returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Silence for meditation - The Seventh candle is not extinguished, but it is removed from view, just as Christ was, for a time, hidden from sight in the tomb.*

### **PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

M: Lord Jesus Christ, in humble awe, in reverent silence, and in solemn trembling your people have gathered around your cross to remember your death.

O Christ, friend of sinners, have mercy on us; O Christ, Savior and Redeemer, have mercy on us; O Christ, only hope of a lost world, have mercy on us.

At your cross we have seen all the ugliness, horror, and misery that sin, death, and Satan brought into the world and that you willingly took on yourself. Open our eyes to see that we deserved the death and torments of hell that you suffered for us.

But open our eyes also to see that by your death you destroyed death, by your sacrifice you reconciled us with your Father and by the blood you shed you purchased us to belong to you forever.

Help us believe that we are worth that much to you. Fill us with joy and peace in believing that we are truly free from condemnation and forgiven by your Father. Help us dedicate our lives in thankful love to you, who gave yourself for us. Hear us, O Lamb of God, who bore all sins for us. Amen.

**SOLO**

**Were You There**  
*Christian Worship #119*

*The Seventh Candle is returned to the chancel, foreshadowing the Resurrection.  
Even on Good Friday we worship the living Christ, the guarantor that we, too, will never die.*

You are invited to remain after the service for prayer and meditation.

**OFFERINGS** to our Savior may be left in the plates at the doors before you leave.

**PLEASE LEAVE THE SANCTUARY, COURTYARD, AND PARKING LOT IN SILENCE.**

## TENEBRAE PARTICIPANTS

**Worship Leader** ..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke  
**Accompanist**..... Tina Christianson  
**Voices of Grace Director** ..... Beth Kassulke  
**Piano Duet**..... Teri Guenther & Beth Kassulke  
**Piano**..... Kathy Parra  
**Violin** ..... Maya Parra  
**Soloist** .....Nicole Peterson  
**Candles**..... Dustin Pauley  
**Lighting** ..... Lucas Guenther  
**Sound Tech**..... Jeff Weinstein

*Copyright Info:*

*Via Dolorosa: Written by Billy Prague and Niles Borop. © 1983 Word Music LLC (a div. of Word Music Group) Meadowgreen Music Co., admin. Capitol CMG Publishing. Reprinted under CCLI License #3095263.*

<b>Easter Day Schedule</b> Sunday, April 5	
Grace-Benson Festival Worship—7:30 AM <i>Breakfast to follow</i>	
Grace-Sahuarita Festival Worship—9:45 AM <i>Brunch to follow</i>	Grace-Tucson Sunrise Worship—7 AM Easter Breakfast—8 AM Easter Concert—9 AM Festival Worship—10 AM
Grace-Vail Easter Breakfast—9 AM Festival Worship—10 AM	



Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)