



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES**  
*Babbtown (Meta) and Schubert (Jefferson City)*

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**TENEBRAE SERVICE**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**March 29, 2024**  
**Babbtown, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Schubert, 7:30 p.m.**

**For Your Meditation Before The Service:**

*“But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” Galatians 6:14*

Welcome to each of you in the name of our Savior, Jesus.

To impress on the hearts and minds of the believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior’s sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service in the last days of Holy Week, called “Tenebrae.” The word means *darkness*. It comes from the ceremony of extinguishing the candles as the service progresses. The extinguishing of the candles is to remind us of the darkness which covered the earth when Jesus hung on the cross, and symbolizes the death of Christ.

At last, but one candle remains burning – even in the midst of death and darkness. This one candle is removed from view briefly and a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake which occurred at the death of Christ. When the Christ candle is restored to view and replaced on the Altar, the congregation receives a blessing and a brief time for meditation. The bell tolls and everyone leaves in *silence*.

May God bless us as we gather in His name for worship on this Good Friday evening.

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**The Ringing Of The Bell – The Call To Worship**

**The Prelude**

**Words Concerning Worship**

**The Hymn Of Invitation:** TLH # 149, “Come To Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

**Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the Fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows to you, to me, to all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty free remission, Here the troubled peace, may find.  
Health this fountain will restore; He that drinks shall thirst no more.**

**He that drinks shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified. Amen.**

**The Invocation And Prayer**

P: In the Name of the Triune God,

C: **We gather for worship.**

P: In the Name of the Father,

C: **Who so loved the world that He sent His only Son to die for our sins.**

P: In the Name of the Son,

C: **Our Savior Jesus, who loved us and laid down His life and rose in victory so that we might have eternal life.**

P: In the Name of the Holy Spirit,

C: **Who was sent forth to bring us to faith in Christ that we might receive the salvation that is offered to us. Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour You bore our sins in Your body, on the tree of the cross, so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world, and through Your grace, eternal glory in the life to come, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You live and reign, God forever. Amen.**

**Hymn:** TLH #171, vs. 1-5 “Upon The Cross Extended”

Upon the cross extended, See, world, thy Lord suspended.  
Thy Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven  
Himself hath freely given To shame and blows and bitter death.

Come hither now and ponder, 'Twill fill thy soul with wonder,  
Blood streams from every pore. Through grief whose depth none knoweth  
For His great heart there floweth Sigh after sigh of anguish o'er.

Who is it that hath bruised Thee? Who hath so sore abused Thee  
And caused Thee all Thy woe? While we must make confession  
Of sin and dire transgression, Thou deeds of evil dost not know.

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

'Tis I who should be smitten, My doom should here be written:  
Bound hand and foot in hell. The fetters and the scourging  
The floods around Thee surging, 'Tis I who have deserved them well.

**Message:** “Return to the Cross”

**Hymn Verse:** “The Old Rugged Cross”

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

**CHORUS:** So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

**A Reading From The Combined Gospel Passion Account**

**Hymn,** “How Great Thou Art” vs. 1& 3

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed!

**REFRAIN:** Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in—  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin; **REFRAIN**

## *THE MEDITATION ON THE SEVEN LAST WORDS*

### **I. The First Word - “Forgive”**

#### **Reading**

**The Confession of Sins:** *[Congregation]*

P: In the shadow of the cross we confess our sins. Most merciful God,

C: **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast Spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You. Amen.**

P: Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight.

C: **Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

P: Hide Your face from my sins.

C: **Blot out all my iniquity.** *[A brief moment of meditation as we repent of personal sins.]*

**Absolution** *[Pastor]*

**Hymn:** TLH 154, 1, 2, & 5 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

**Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do. Amen.**

P: Jesus said from the cross:

C: **“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”**

All: **O Lord, fill us with Your forgiveness that we may forgive as You have forgiven us.  
Lord, in Your mercy, hear us. Amen.**

*The First Candle Is Extinguished - The Bell Tolls*

### **II. The Second Word - “Salvation”**

#### **Reading**

#### **The Prayer**

**The Hymn,** TLH #141, vs. 1 “Lamb Of God, Pure And Holy”

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O, Jesus!**

P: Jesus said from the cross:

C: **“Verily, Verily, I say unto you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

All: **Lord Jesus, think on me. Fill me with Your mercy and the blessed assurance of Eternal Life. Amen.**

*The Second Candle Is Extinguished - The Bell Tolls*

**III. The Third Word - “Love”**

**Reading**

**The Prayer**

**Hymn, “Jesus Loves Me”**

**Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.**

**Little ones to Him belong, They are weak, but He is strong.**

**REFRAIN: Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me, He who died. Heaven’s gate to open wide.**

**He will wash away my sin. Let His little child come in. REFRAIN**

P: Jesus said from the cross:

C: **“Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.”**

All: **“For this is love – not that we loved God, but that He first loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10). We thank You, oh Lord, for Your great mercy. Amen.**

*The Third Candle Is Extinguished - The Bell Tolls*

*[From 12:00 to 3:00 darkness came over the whole country because the sun stopped shining.]*

**IV. The Fourth Word - “Despair”**

**Reading**

**Psalmody (Psalm 22)**

P: My God my God why have you forsaken me? I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come.

C: **My God, my God, to you I cry; O hear my anxious plea.**

P: But you are enthroned as the Holy One, the one whom Israel praises.

Our ancestors put their trust in you, and you saved them.

C: **My God, my God, look from on high; In mercy answer me.**

P: All who see me make fun of me: “You relied on the Lord; why doesn’t he save you?”  
Do not stay away from me! Trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

C: **My God, my God, to you I cry; O hear my anxious plea.**

P: All my bones are out of joint; my heart is like melted wax.  
My throat is as dry as dust, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.

C: **My God, my God, look from on high; In mercy answer me.**

P: A gang of evil men is around me; they tear at my hands and feet.  
They gamble for my clothes and divide them among themselves.

C: **My God, my God, to you I cry; O hear my anxious plea.**

P: The Lord is King, and he rules the nations. Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told: “The Lord saved His people.”

C: **My God, my God, look from on high; In mercy answer me.**

**Hymn:** TLH #153, vs. 1- 4 “Stricken, Smitten And Afflicted”

**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 thro' fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would interpose 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's the Rock of our salvation, His 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. Amen.**

P: Jesus said from the cross:

C: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

All: **Silent through those three dreadful hours**

**Wrestling with the evil powers, Left alone with human sin,  
Gloom around me and within, Till the appointed time is nigh,  
Till the Lamb of God may die. Amen.**

***The Fourth Candle Is Extinguished - The Bell Tolls***

## V. The Fifth Word - "Suffer"

### Reading

**The Lord's Prayer Litany:** *[Congregation: Bold parts]*

O Lord: **Have mercy upon us.** O Christ: **Have mercy upon us.**

Thou that takes away the sins of the world: **Have mercy upon us.**

Thou that sits at the right hand of the Father: **Receive our prayer.**

Thou who was silent before Thine accusers: **Open our lips to sing Thy praise.**

Thou who did pray for Thine enemies: **Fill our hearts with love to all men.**

Thou who did confess before men: **Help us to bear witness to Thee, our Lord and our Redeemer.**

Thou who did humble Thyself: **Teach us true humility.**

Thou who did willingly bear Thy cross: **Help us to accept whatever cross may be placed upon us.**

Thou who did say, "I am the Son of God": **Hallowed be Thy name.**

Thou who did say, "I am a King": **Thy Kingdom come.**

Thou who did pray, "Not My will but Thine be done": **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Thou who did cry out, "I thirst": **Give us this day our daily bread.**

Thou who did ask forgiveness for Thine enemies: **Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

Thou who was tempted in the wilderness: **Lead us not into temptation.**

Thou who did commend Thy soul into the hands of Thy Father: **Deliver us from evil.**

Thou who was crowned with thorns: **Thine is the Kingdom.**

Thou who did sink into the arms of death: **Thine is the power.**

Thou who did redeem us from sin, death, and hell: **Thine is the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn: "Were You There?"**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? . . .**

**Were you there when the day turned into night? . . .**

**Were you there when He cried out in despair? . . .**

P: Jesus said from the cross:

C: **"I Thirst"**

All: **Oh Lord, You did thirst so that You might become for us the Water of Life.**

**Refresh us from the well of Your mercy. Amen.**

***The Fifth Candle Is Extinguished - The Bell Tolls***

## VI. The Sixth Word - "Victory"

### Reading

#### Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell;**

**The third day He rose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father almighty;**

**From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;**

**The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen**

[Babbtown] Hymn Verses: TLH #172, vs. 1 & 8 "Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded"

**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, tho' despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

**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. Amen.**

[Schubert] Choir Anthem, "Amazing Love"

P: Jesus said from the cross:

C: "It is finished"

All: The Twenty-Third Psalm:

**The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:**

**For Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**

**Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**

**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*The Sixth Candle Is Extinguished - The Bell Tolls*



## VII. The Seventh Word - “Committal”

### Reading

*The Last Candle Is Removed - The Church Is Darkened*

**The Loud Noise** [To symbolize the traditional slamming of the book and the earthquake at Christ’s death.]

**A Moment Of Silence**

**The Candle Is Returned**

**Prayer**

**The Blessing**

“Abide With Me! Fast Falls The Eventide” vs. 1 & 8

**The Tolling Of The Bell** [Seven times]

+ **The Silent Departure** +

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**DEPART IN PEACE—RETURN REJOICING!**

**EASTER SUNDAY:**

Worship: Babbtown, 8:00 a.m.  
Easter Breakfast following worship

Worship: Schubert, 10:00 a.m.  
Easter Devotion and Breakfast, 8:45 a.m.

**Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis**

**The Lutheran Hymnal:** St. Louis, Concordia, 1941

Hymn #149: Scripture: Matthew 11:28; Come To Calvary’s Holy Mountain; Author: James Montgomery (1819); Tune: Consolatio ; Composer: Ludvig M. Lindeman (1871).

Hymn #171; Scripture: Hebrews 9:28; O Welt sieh hier dein Leben; Upon The Cross Extended; Author: Paul Gerhardt (1648, cento); Translator: John Kelly (1867,alt.) Tune: O Welt, ich muss dich lassen; Composer: Heinrich Isaak (c. 1490.).

Hymn #154; Scripture: Luke 23:44-46; Alas And Did My Savior Bleed; Author: Isaac Watts, (1707, ab. and alt); Tune: Martyrdom; Composer: Hugh Wilson (1884).

Hymn #146: Scripture: John 1:29; O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig; Lamb Of God Pure And Holy; Author: Nikolaus Decius (1531; Translator: Composite; Tune: O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig; Source: “Christl. KirchhenOrdnung” Erfurt, 1542.

Hymn #153; Scripture: Isaiah 53:3-5; Title: O Mein Jesu, ich muss sterben; Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted; Author: Thomas Kelly, (1804); Source: “Geistliche Volkslieder”, Paderborn, 1850.

Hymn #172: Scripture: Isaiah 50:6; O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden; O Sacred Head, Now Wounded; Based on the Latin; Author: Bernard of Clairvox, died 1153, asc.; Translator: Paul Gerhardt (1656); Translation: Composite; Tune: Herzlich Tut Mich; Composer: Hans L. Hassler (1601).

Hymn # 552: Scripture: Luke 24:29; Abide with me! Fast Falls the Eventide; Henry F. Lyte (1847 (?));Tune: Eventide; Composer: William H. Monk (1861).

“**The Old Rugged Cross**”; Author: George Bennard, 1913; music and setting, George Bennard, 1913; © public domain.

“**Jesus Loves Me**”; Author: Anna B. Warner (1859), from a poem written by Susan Warner, in the novel, “Say And Seal.” Composer: William B. Bradbury (1862), © Public Domain.

“**Were You There?**”; Composers: Enslaved African Americans, 19<sup>th</sup> century; Published in William Eleazor Barton’s 1890 Old Plantation Hymns; Included in Episcopal Church Hymnal, 1940.

“**How Great Thou Art**”: Scripture: Genesis 1:1-25; Author: Crl Gustaf Boberg, 1859-1940; Translator: Stuart W.K. Hine, (1899-1989; Tune: O Store Gud; Composer: Stuart W.K. Hine; Text and Music: ©renewed, 1981, Manna Music.