



"It is finished"

-John 19:30

Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers

Friday, April 3, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The congregation gathers in silence. Seven candles will be extinguished and the lights will be lowered as we participate in the Service of Tenebrae, which means "darkness."



OPENING

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
Make haste to help me, O Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm 22 *Read responsively by whole verse.*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were rescued
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
"He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Be not far from me,
for trouble is near, and there is none to help.
Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;

my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

**For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my | hands and feet—**

I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
**they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
**Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!**

Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!
**I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
**For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
**The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
**For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.**

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
**Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**

they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

READING

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

(Each portion of the Passion reading will be followed by a time of silence)



HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanza 1

1. 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.

READING John 18:1-11 (Betrayal and arrest of Jesus)

(Silence)

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanza 2

2. 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 has lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.

READING John 18:12-27 (Jesus before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter)

(Silence)

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanza 3

3. What Thou, my Lord, has 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 18:28-40 (Jesus before Pilate)

(Silence)

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanza 4

4. 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 heavenly joys above.

READING John 19:1-16a (Jesus is sentenced.)

(Silence)

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanza 5

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

READING John 19:16b-24 (The Crucifixion of Jesus)

(Silence)

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanza 6

6. 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, Oh, leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

READING John 19:25-30 (Jesus' Mother and His Death)

(Silence)

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB 450, stanza 7

7. 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.

READING John 19:31-42 (Jesus' Side is Pierced)

Silence for Meditation and Prayer

O Lord, have mercy on us.
Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORY:

We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.
He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.



SERMON: Pastor David Hintz



CANTICLE:

Habakkuk: 3:17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there will be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

let us pray for the whole Christian Church and for all the people of God:

Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name as each member truly serves You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

let us pray for our catechumens, that they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:

Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, our President; the Congress of the United States; our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

let us pray that our Lord would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, grant health to the sick, and a safe journey to all who travel:

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
let us pray for all who are outside the Church:

Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
let us pray for our enemies:

O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**



Silence for Meditation and Prayer

STREPITUS: *The strepitus is a loud noise meant to symbolize the closing of Jesus' tomb.*

*The congregation leaves in silence with minimal light.
If so desired, you may remain in the sanctuary for personal meditation and prayer.*