



Good Friday

Tenebrae

Service of Darkness

March 25, 2016

Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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AS WE GATHER: The Good Friday Tenebrae helps us experience the time of darkness that occurred during Jesus' crucifixion. The Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") is a worship service observed during Holy Week to impress upon us the horrifying consequences of our sin and the magnitude of our Savior's sacrifice for us. Candles are extinguished to remind us of the darkness of that day and the darkness of our sinful world. Tonight, we use seven candles as we remember Jesus' seven last words from the cross. The removal of the Christ Candle near the end of the Tenebrae signifies the death of Jesus. The loud sound—the *strepitus*—represents the closing of the tomb. However, we do not leave in total darkness. The return of the Christ Candle reminds us that death is not the end of Jesus, nor the end of us. We depart in both silence and confidence, knowing that the light of Easter will soon scatter the darkness of Good Friday.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Colossians 2:13–15*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear now words of forgiveness, spoken to you, flowing from the cross: “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.”

On the cross, God the Father took your sins and laid them upon His Son, Jesus Christ. On the cross, Jesus triumphed over sin, death, hell, and the devil. Everything Jesus did on the cross, He did for you. Because of the cross, you are fully and freely forgiven.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As the nails were driven into Jesus’ hands, all of our sins were being forgiven. I invite you to come forward and hammer a nail into the cross. May this be a powerful time of reflection as we remember that God took our sin away, “nailing it to the cross.”

NAILING OF THE CROSS

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST WORD *Luke 23:32–35* (“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”)

MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

SECOND WORD *Luke 23:39–43* (“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”)

MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

HYMN “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” *LW* 109

THIRD WORD *John 19:19–27* (“Woman, behold, your son!” “Behold, your mother!”)

MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

HYMN “What Wondrous Love is This” *HS98 860*

FOURTH WORD *Mark 15:33–36* (“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”)

MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

HYMN “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” *LW 116*

FIFTH WORD *John 19:28–29* (“I thirst.”)

MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

HYMN “The Lamb” Sts. 1–4 *HS98 822*

SIXTH WORD *John 19:30* (“It is finished.”)

MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

HYMN “Upon the Cross Extended” *LW 121*

SEVENTH WORD *Luke 23:44–49* (“Father, into Your hands

I commit My spirit!”)

MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

LORD’S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS REMOVED

HYMN “Were You There” *LW 505*

MEN’S CHOIR (Evening) “Were You There”

STREPITUS

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS RETURNED

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make His face shine on you and be
 gracious to you.
 The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give
 you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Amazing Grace” sung a cappella

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,

His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe so far,
His grace will see me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

*The congregation departs the service in reverent silence,
anticipating the victory of Easter Day.*

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