

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Muskego, WI

Good Friday – Service of Darkness

April 14, 2017

PRESERVICE SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

ANTHEM

The Lamb, Handbells
arr. by Sheryl Hansen and John Behnke

CALL TO WORSHIP

M Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
C **yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.**

M But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
C **the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

M All we, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;
C **and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** (*Isaiah 53:4-6*)

M Let us pray.
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. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
C **Amen.**

HYMN 98, vv. 1-3

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

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.

Make me see your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound you,
How for them you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of your crucifixion.

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

M Let us remember Jesus, who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us, who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled, who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

C **May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.**

M Let us remember Jesus, who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him and for the perfecting of those who received him, who loved all people, and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him; who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God.

C **May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.**

M Let us remember Jesus, who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross. God has exalted him who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and has given us freedom in him.

C **May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us and continues to do for us. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION

John 19:31-37, Bible page 1087

Our Savior's glory hidden in his promises.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Go to Dark Gethsemane, Handbells

arr. by Jeffrey Honoré

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

A Meditation on Prophecies of the Crucifixion

FORSAKEN BY GOD

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

~ Psalm 22:1-5

SCRIPTURE

M From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means:

C **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** (*Matthew 27:45-47*)

PRAYER

M Jesus, when you died on the cross, it wasn't just the physical pain of the cross that you endured. You experienced the spiritual anguish of hell itself. For a time, you were completely abandoned by your Father. That's what we would have experienced if you hadn't stepped in.

C **Thank you for giving us eyes to see the reality of what you did for this world, and the faith to believe you also did this for us. Guard and defend our faith, so that we never lose hold of your precious gift of salvation. Amen.**

♪ 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, as you 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.

RIDICULED

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

~ Psalm 22:6-10

SCRIPTURE

M They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying,

C **"So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!"**

M In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves.

C **"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe."**

M Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him. (*Mark 15:27-32*)

PRAYER

M Jesus, how it must have broken your heart when your own people turned on you. These were souls you lovingly fashioned, individuals you nurtured and cared for, people you blessed in countless ways. Yet they refused to see you for who you really are. They cruelly and viciously rejected you.

C **Lord, may this never happen to us. Keep us close to you through your Word and Sacrament. Send your Holy Spirit to us, so that we may hold fast to you in faith in life and in death. Amen.**

♪ O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession
What dark transgression?

They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
They give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
They crucify you.

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
This I do merit.

ALL ALONE AMONG HIS ENEMIES

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. ~ Psalm 22:11-13

SCRIPTURE

M Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him.

C **"You also were with Jesus of Galilee,"**

M she said. But he denied it before them all.

C **"I don't know what you're talking about,"**

M he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there,

C **"This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."**

M He denied it again, with an oath:

C **"I don't know the man!"**

M After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said,

C **“Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”**

M Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them,

C **“I don’t know the man!”** (*Matthew 26:69-74*)

PRAYER

M Jesus, your love for this world goes beyond our human comprehension. Over and over again this world has denied you, forsaken you, run from you — not just while you were here with us, but from the very beginning when Adam and Eve hid from you in the garden. Yet your love never wavered. You came to your people’s rescue time and again — when they cried out for it and sometimes when they didn’t even realize they needed your help.

C **Jesus, whatever our struggle, our fear, our sadness, may we always run to you and not from you.**

♪ **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!**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown For my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

THIRSTY

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. ~ Psalm 22:14-15

SCRIPTURE

M Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said,

C **“I am thirsty.”**

M A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. (*John 19:28-29*)

PRAYER

M O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy.

C **Then lead us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.**

ANTHEM

The Old Rugged Cross, Saved By One

CRUCIFIED UNJUSTLY

Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

~ Psalm 22:16

SCRIPTURE

M Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said,

M **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”** (*Luke 23:33-34*)

PRAYER

M Father God, through the passion of your one and only Son you transformed an instrument of shameful death into the means by which we gain eternal life. We stand amazed at the courage he displayed to willingly endure the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption.

C **Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him. Amen.**

♪ **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 they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

STRIPPED

All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.


~ Psalm 22:17-18

SCRIPTURE

- M When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.
- C **“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”**
- M This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,
- C **“They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”**
- M So this is what the soldiers did. (*John 19:23-24*)

PRAYER

- M Lord Jesus, you were stripped of your garments and exposed to shame. When you took upon yourself the shame of Adam, you healed all our shame.
- C **Clothe us in the garments of your righteousness today and always. Amen.**

 **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?**

**Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run; He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And ‘gainst him rise.**

**They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save; The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he To suff’ring goes
That he his foes From death might free.**

IT IS FINISHED!

All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

~ Psalm 22:29-31

SCRIPTURE

- M When he had received the drink, Jesus said,
- C **“It is finished.”**
- M With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (*John 19:30*)

ANTHEM

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, *Lydia Eiche*

While the anthem is being sung, the final candle is extinguished.

The Christ Candle is removed, followed by the strepitus (symbolizing the closing of the tomb).

LORD'S PRAYER (whispered in the darkness)

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Christ Candle is returned to the chancel.

A PROPHECY OF HOPE

But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever!

~ Psalm 22:19-26

We encourage you to go home today anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday. You may remain in the sanctuary for meditation or prayer as long as you like. The omission of the benediction today indicates that our worship is not complete until joined with the celebration of Easter.

Easter Worship Services

April 15	Easter Vigil	5:00 pm
April 16	Easter Sunrise	6:00 am
	Easter Festival	7:45, 9:15 and 10:45 am
	Easter at The Bridge	10:15 am
April 19	No Wednesday Evening Service	

* The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunrise services are identical