

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## Good Friday Tenebrae

March 30, 2018

### The Tree of Life

*Tenebrae, which is a Latin word meaning "shadows," has been observed in the church of Jesus Christ since the fourth century. On this Good Friday we marvel that the Creator of life died on a tree so that through his death we might partake of the Tree of Life forever. As we connect the seven days of creation to the seven days of Holy Week, we will extinguish the candles on the Communion table, one by one. The gradual extinguishing of the candles will be accompanied by short reflections, prayers, hymns, choral anthems, and readings from Scripture. Near the end of the service, the Christ Candle will be removed briefly from the sanctuary to signify Christ's death. After a moment of silence, the Christ Candle will be brought back as a foretaste of the resurrection hope that we will celebrate on Easter.*

#### SILENCE FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

#### TOLLING

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 53:4-6

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.

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.

#### OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now, Handbells  
Kristin Miller, Flute  
arr. by Sandra Eithun

## 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.**

## HYMN 754

## The Tree of Life

*God's first promise to send a Savior, offered in the shadow of Eden, finds its fulfillment on the tree of Calvary, Jesus' cross.*

**The tree of life with ev'ry good In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.**

**The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile And Adam to by sin defile.  
Oh, day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.**

**What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by his grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need—  
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent's head!**

**Now from that tree of Jesus' shame Flows life eternal in his name;  
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good.**

## THE FIRST DAY

## The Beginning

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).*

## REFLECTION

Mark 11:7-11, Bible page 1015

## HYMN 122, vv. 1,4

## Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;  
Sing the ending of the fray.  
Now above the cross, the trophy,  
Sound the loud triumphant lay.  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
As a victim won the day.

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,  
Be for all the noblest tree;  
None in foliage, none in blossom,  
None in fruit your equal be,  
Symbol of the world's redemption,  
For your burden makes us free.

## PRAYER

M We pray.

Lord Jesus, in the beginning you spoke the heavens and the earth into existence.

C **Already then you knew that one day you would come and be lifted up from this earth to redeem your creation (John 3:14).**

M Already then you knew that you would cry out in anguish, but the heavens would be silent (Matthew 27:46).

C **When the beginning of your passion was at hand, you did not hesitate or turn aside. Fill us today with new appreciation for your resolute, unstoppable love. Amen.**

## THE SECOND DAY

## Preparation

*"Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water" (Genesis 1:6).*

## REFLECTION

Mark 11:12-18, Bible page 1015

## HYMN 106, vv. 1, 4

## Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

Come to Calvary'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.

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.

## PRAYER

M We pray.

C O Lord Jesus Christ, lead us to see your thirst as you suffered in your humanity, that we might drink from you and never thirst again, but live in your Father's house forevermore. Amen.

## THE THIRD DAY

## The Curse

*Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so (Genesis 1:11).*

## REFLECTION

Mark 11:20-23, Bible page 1015

HYMN 389, vv. 1, 4

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood From thy riven side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!

## THE FOURTH DAY

## Darkness and Light

*And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so (Genesis 1:14-15).*

## REFLECTION

John 12:35-36a, Bible page 1079

HYMN 588, vv. 1, 7

Abide with Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

## THE FIFTH DAY

## The Life-Blood

*And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky" (Genesis 1:20).*

## REFLECTION

**Mark 14:22-24**, Bible page 1019

## HYMN 128, vv. 1, 2, 4

## Not All the Blood of Beasts

Not all the blood of beasts  
On Israel's altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace  
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,  
Takes all our sins away,  
A sacrifice of nobler name  
And richer blood than they.

My soul looks back to see  
The burden you did bear  
When hanging on the cursed tree  
I know my guilt was there!

## PRAYER

M We pray.

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.

C **We stand amazed at the courage he displayed to willingly shed his life-blood for our redemption. Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him.  
Amen.**

## THE SIXTH DAY

## It Is Finished

*Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being (Genesis 2:7).*

## REFLECTION

**Mark 15:33-39**, Bible page 1022

*Darkness fills the sanctuary.*

## THE REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

### STREPITUS

*A Latin word meaning "loud noise," symbolizing the earthquake that occurred when Jesus died and the closing of the Savior's tomb.*

*A moment for silent meditation.*

### PRAYER

**M** We pray.

**C** **O Lord Jesus Christ, you resolved to do your Father's work and finish it.  
Give us your strength that morning and evening we live in hope,  
knowing that your great work for us is completed. Amen.**

### THE SEVENTH DAY

### The Day of Rest

*By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work (Genesis 2:2).*

### REFLECTION

**Mark 15:42-47, Bible page 1022**

### HYMN 754

### Rest, O Christ, From All Your Labor

**Rest, O Christ, from all your labor; Sleep within your borrowed tomb.  
Foes have crucified and bound you Fast within death's narrow room.  
Pilate's guards stand watching, waiting Where they rolled the sealing stone.  
All unseen another watches: God will not forsake his own.**

**Peace at last from all your anguish, Wounds in hand and feet and side.  
Enemies no longer mock you, Scourged, abandoned, crucified.  
Faithful women gather spices, Weep for you whom sin has slain.  
Though they mourn, the God who guards you Will not let your death be vain.**

**Help us keep this solemn Sabbath As we wait for Easter dawn.  
Earth's dark night of sin is passing; Death's long reign will soon be gone.  
Christ, in whom the new creation Rises brighter than the sun:  
May we, as we watch for morning, Trust the vict'ry you have won.**

M Now all is silent. The hellish crew, death, and the grave have had their day. Yet they shall not have the last word. The Temple they sought to destroy will rise up again on the third day. In confident hope and expectation, the church awaits the glory of the Easter morn.

*The Christ Candle is restored representing the resurrection hope that is ours and will be celebrated on Easter morning.*

M My body also will rest secure (*Psalm 16:9*),

C **because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay** (*Psalm 16:10*).

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*whispered*)

M We pray.

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.**

*After a moment of meditation, the congregation is asked to leave in silence.*

*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.*

PRESIDING MINISTER *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*

ORGANIST *Kathy Bremer*

### Easter Worship Services

<b>March 31</b>	<b>Easter Vigil *</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>Easter Sunrise *</b>	<b>6:00 am</b>
	<b>Easter Festival</b>	<b>7:45, 9:15 and 10:45 am</b>
	<b>Easter at The Bridge</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>
<b>April 4</b>	<b>No Wednesday Evening Service</b>	

\* The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunrise services are identical