



FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

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

— Psalm 22:1-2



Dear Friends, we have come together at this solemn moment in the life of the church, to reflect on the suffering of our Lord in His days, and to think about our own shortcomings and failing. It is the day in Holy Week set aside for sober reflection on our sins which cost him his life.

In keeping with the sober theme of this event, this Tenebrae service will conclude this service in silence and the reading of Psalm 22. This putting out of lights dates from the fifth century, and was treated as a sort of funeral dirge, commemorating the death of Jesus Christ. It was from the extinguishing of lights that the service came to be known as Tenebrae (Latin for “shadows”).

INVOCATION

Savior of the world, what have you done to deserve this? And what have we done to deserve you? Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon, you wait for death, and look for us, for us whose sin has crucified you.

To the mystery of undeserved suffering you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love. Forgive us for not knowing what we have done; open our eyes to see what you are doing now, as through wood and nails, you disempower our depravity and transform us by your grace.

RESPONSIVE READING — Isaiah 53:3-6

Leader: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

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

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

Congregation: **We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to His own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Behold the Lamb of God — *Taize*

Behold the Lamb of God

Behold the Lamb of God

He takes away the sin,

The sin of the world

Good Friday marks the death of Jesus Christ. It's called "good" because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption of the world. This is a Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows") Liturgy. Cover Art: Agnus Dei, "Lamb of God" Francisco de Zurbaran (1598-1664).

Text in bold is read by the congregation. Plain text is read by the worship leader only.

THE WATCH — Matthew 26:36-45

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.” When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’” ³²But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Were You There — *African-American spiritual*
First published in Old Plantation Hymns, 1899

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?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

First Candle Extinguished

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 51:1-3,5-6,10-11

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Congregation: **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

Leader: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Congregation: **Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**

Leader: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Congregation: **Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

THE BETRAYAL — Matthew 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

OUR LITANY OF SINS

Second Candle Extinguished

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 6: 1-2,10

Leader: O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

Congregation: **Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint;
O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony.**

Leader: All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.

Congregation: **All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed;
they will turn back in sudden disgrace.**

THE DENIAL — Matthew 26:57-75

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled.⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death.⁶⁹ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward⁶¹ and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?”⁶³ But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.⁶⁶ What do you think?”

“He is worthy of death,” they answered.

Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him⁶⁸ and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?”

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said.

But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.”

Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

O Sacred Head Now Wounded — Lyrics: Arnulf of Leuven, written in Latin c. 1240, Music: Hans Leo Hassler, c. 1600

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 though despised and gory
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou my Lord hast 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.

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 to thee.

Third Candle Extinguished

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 102:1-2,11-12

Leader: Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to you.
Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn
your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.

Congregation: **For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn
like glowing embers. My heart is blighted and withered
like grass; I forget to eat my food.**

Leader: Because of my loud groaning I am reduced to skin and
bones. I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.

Congregation: **I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a
roof. All day long my enemies taunt me; those who rail
against me use my name as a curse.**

Leader: For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears
because of your great wrath, for you have taken me up and
thrown me aside.

Congregation: **My days are like the evening shadow; I wither
away like grass. But you, O LORD, sit enthroned
forever; your renown endures through all generations.**

THE GUILT — Matthew 27:1-5

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. ²They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Jerusalem — *CityAlight*

See Him in Jerusalem
Walking where the crowds are
Once these streets had sung to Him
Now they cry for murder

Such a frail and lonely Man
Holding up the heavy cross
See Him walking in Jerusalem
On the road to save us

See Him there upon the hill
Hear the scorn and laughter
Silent as a lamb He waits
Praying to the Father

See the King who made the sun
And the moon and shining stars
Let the soldiers hold and nail Him down
So that He could save them

See Him there upon the cross
Now no longer breathing
Dust that formed the watching crowds
Takes the blood of Jesus

Feel the Earth is shaking now
See the veil is split in two
And He stood before the wrath of God
Shielding sinners with His blood

Fourth Candle Extinguished

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 32:1-2,7,10

Leader: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Congregation: **Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

Leader: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Congregation: **Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.**

THE JUDGMENT — Luke 23:11-25

Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹(Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

Lead Me to the Cross — *Brooke Ligertwood*

Savior, I come, quiet my soul, remember
Redemption's hill, Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom

Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss
Lead me to the cross, Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself, I belong to You
Oh, lead me, Lead me to the cross

You were as I, tempted and tried, human
The Word became flesh, bore my sin and death
Now You're risen

Fifth Candle Extinguished

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 143:1-2,9-10

Leader: O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Congregation: **Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.**

Leader: Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you.

Congregation: **Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

THE CRUCIFIXION — Luke 23:26-34

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then “they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”’ ³¹ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

There Is A Fountain — *William Cowper, 1772*

There is fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
'Til all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be 'til I die.

When this poor lisping, stammering tongue
Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song,
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

Sixth Candle Extinguished

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 38:1,4,6,8,10,21

Leader: O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

Congregation: **My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.**

Leader: I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning.

Congregation: **I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart.**

Leader: My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes.

Congregation: **O LORD, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.**

THE COMMENDATION — Luke 23:39-47

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”

Amazing Grace (It Covers Me) — *Watermark*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to a tree
As grace flows down and covers me
It covers me
It covers me
It covers me
It covers me

Seventh Candle Extinguished

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

Congregation: **If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

Leader: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Congregation: **O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

How Deep the Father's Love for Us — *Keith Getty & Stuart Townend*

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no powers, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

— John 16:16

“In a little while you will see me no more,
and then after a little while you will see me.”

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Please observe complete silence as you leave tonight’s service.

— Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
¹⁷ I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
¹⁹ But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
²³ 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!
²⁴ 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.
²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
¹⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
²⁸ For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.
²⁹ 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.
³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people
yet unborn, that he has done it.