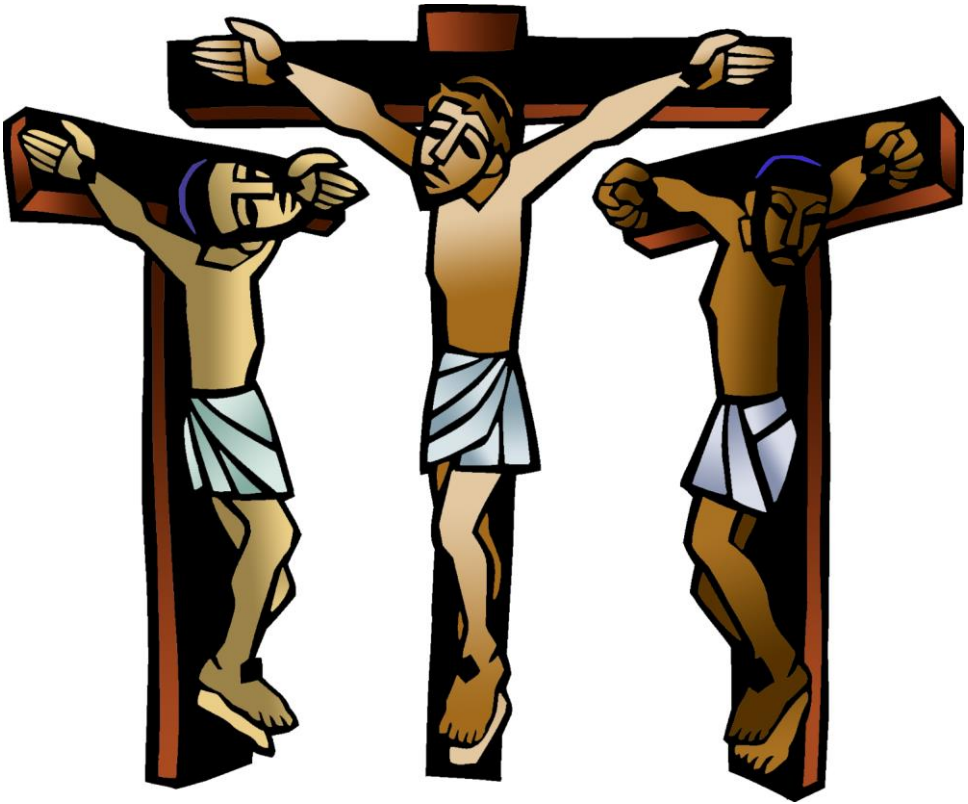


Good Friday



April 18th, 2025

*Faith Lutheran Church
Jacksonville, Illinois*

THE SERVICE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

REFLECTION: “Shadows”

THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

“Tenebrae” is a Latin word meaning “shadows” or “darkness.” The dramatic feature of this service is the gradual extinction of lights in the worship area, except for the Christ Candle. The Christ Candle is taken out near the end of this liturgy, symbolizing the death of our Lord. When the Christ candle is gone, a loud noise signifies the closing of the tomb. Then the Christ candle is brought back to foreshadow Christ’s resurrection.

FIRST OF THE SHADOWS – JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Mark 15:1-15

¹As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ He answered him, ‘You say so.’ ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, ‘Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.’ ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, ‘Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’ ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" ELW 347, vv. 1-3

- 1 **Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2 **Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**
- 3 **Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

SECOND OF THE SHADOWS – JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

John 19:16b-17

^{16b}So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

A PRAYER FROM OUR OWN GOOD FRIDAY SHADOWS

P: Ever-present God, on this Good Friday night,
our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of Jesus' death.
We confess that our thoughts are elsewhere... help them to be on you.
Help us to live this journey to the cross with you,
Help us to see you in our own shadowed journeys, every step of the way,
Help us to see you in the suffering we face and see in others,
Help us to trust in you, the light of the world, when so much appears to be overtaken by shadows,
Help us to be lights for the world, that others would be touched by your grace.
And may we find our abiding place at your cross, where you meet us with comfort, challenge, courage, and love. **C: Amen.**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
A home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
The wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

THIRD OF THE SHADOWS – A PROPHECY OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Isaiah 53:3-5

³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

sung 3 times

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of His glory and grace.**

FOURTH OF THE SHADOWS – THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

Luke 23:26

²⁶As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” ELW 324, vv. 1, 2, & 4

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

FIFTH OF THE SHADOWS – JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Mark 15:22-27

²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, ‘The King of the Jews.’ ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR SIN NAILED JESUS TO THE CROSS

As we sing, all are invited to come forward and hammer a nail into the cross.

“Glory Be to Jesus” (LBW 95)

- 1 **Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains,
poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins.**
- 2 **Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.**
- 3 **Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
which from endless torment did the world redeem.**
- 4 **Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies;
but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.**
- 5 **Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,
angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.**
- 6 **Lift we then our voices, swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder praise the precious blood.**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” ELW 351

- 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, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.
- 2 How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
- 3 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 to thee.
- 4 Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing die safely in thy love.

“Were You There” ELW 353

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

- 5 **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?**

SIXTH OF THE SHADOWS – JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

John 19:28-30

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” ELW 339

- 1. Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 2. You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 3. Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.**

SEVENTH OF THE SHADOWS – JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

John 19:38-42

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the

body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

A GOOD FRIDAY POEM

This Friday as I bend my knee,
below this holy, cross-shaped tree,
I raise my eyes and then I say,
“I had no part in this today.”
But in my heart, I know it’s true,
it was my nails that pierced him through.
Indeed! I did, I had a part,
it was my sin that broke his heart.

*We join in a period of silent mediation while the lights go out.
The Christ candle is carried out, and a loud noise signifies Jesus’ burial, sealed in a tomb.
The Christ candle returns to foreshadow Christ’s resurrection.*

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: **By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Amen.**

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