

WORSHIP IN THE HOME VIA ZOOM
GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

APRIL 2, 2021
7:00 PM



Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") was the name given to the medieval predawn Morning Prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. In recent centuries, this monastic liturgy was transferred to Friday evening in Holy Week. As the readings trace the progress of the Crucifixion, candles are gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, we experience a sense of darkness and suspense until Easter morning.

PRESERVICE

(Prior to the joining this ZOOM meeting you may wish to use this link to this version of "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended" to simply listen or to sing along: <https://youtu.be/s4MKOP-vhQ0>)

GATHERING

LITANY

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

People: who redeems us from sin and death.

Leader: For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

L The Lord be with you,
C **and also with you.**

L Let us pray,
Lord, at times it causes us to tremble when we consider the sorrow, pain, and suffering you so freely took upon yourself for us. As we follow you to the cross, we can't help but ask why this horrible thing must happen. How is it that the shouts of "hosanna" have so quickly turned to shouts of "crucify him"? But deep down we know. Deep down we know whose sin causes your

death. It is our sin, our rejection, our treason that brought you to Calvary. Yes, we were truly there. We humbly pray that your love, forgiveness, and mercy that so greatly offended us may now be extended to us. Grant that we may die to our sin and so be raised to new life with you. We ask all this, and everything else, in the words you taught us to pray...

L Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

THE FIRST WORD

"Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

LESSON Joan Hemke Luke 23:13-38

Jesus Sentenced to Death

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!'

¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' ²²A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be

granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

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. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?' ³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

(The first candle is extinguished) Silence is observed.

THE SECOND WORD

"Today you will be with me in Paradise"

LESSON

Judith Callens

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

(The second candle is extinguished) Silence is observed.

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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THE THIRD WORD

"Woman, behold your son... Behold your mother."

LESSON **Beverly Wagner**

John 19:17-27

¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' ²²Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic

was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

(The third candle is extinguished) Silence is observed.

THE FOURTH WORD

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

LESSON Pastor Gordon

Matthew 27:45-49

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.'

(The fourth candle is extinguished) Silence is observed.

THE FIFTH WORD

"I thirst"

LESSON Mary Myers

John 19:28-29

²⁸ After 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.

(The fifth candle is extinguished) Silence is observed

THE SIXTH WORD

"It is finished"

LESSON **Mary Myers**

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(The sixth candle is extinguished) Silence is observed.

THE SEVENTH WORD

"Into thy hands, I commend my spirit."

LESSON **Read by Pastor Gordon**

Luke 23:44-49

The Death of Jesus

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

(The seventh and final candle is extinguished) Silence is observed.)

PSALM 51 is read to the congregation. Following this, the "strepitus" is heard, a loud noise signifying the closing of the tomb.

Psalm 51

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt-offerings and whole burnt-offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Everyone is asked to leave the ZOOM Meeting in silence

(After leaving the meeting, you may wish to use this link to a vocal version of “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord” to simply listen or to sing along: <https://youtu.be/LRaFdFkOVyY>)

While in this season of suspense, it is valuable to contemplate the depth of God’s loving sacrifice to effect our salvation. This version of the old hymn “What Wondrous Love” by the St Olaf College Choir may be a useful tool to aid that contemplation. <https://youtu.be/DsVnvN3EVxY>