

The Fulfillment Easter Morning!

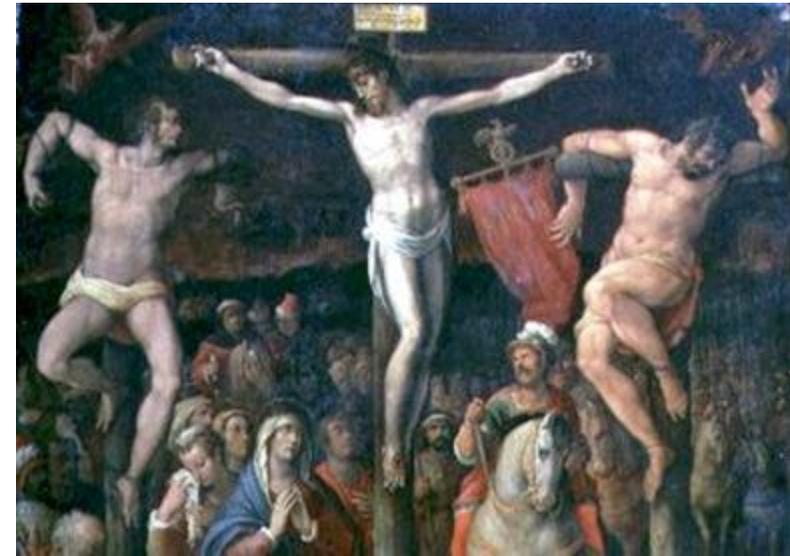
+ + +

The actual service of “Tenebrae” or “shadows” grew out of a combination of night prayer and early morning prayer services, with an additional focus on the passion of the Lord Jesus. It is an ancient service predating the Middle Ages. Its most significant feature is the gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles in the room and on the altar symbolizing the fact that *“He came to His own, but His own received Him not . . . In Him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”*(John 1:11, 4) **As dark as all of the shadows may be, Jesus’ light is brighter still. His promise shall remain forever!**

Director of Music and Organist: Dr. Valerie Manning

GOOD FRIDAY

April 2, 2021



First Lutheran Church

405.235.1013

www.firstlutheranokc.org

Rev. John Brennan - Pastor

1300 N. Robinson • Oklahoma City, OK 73103

&

Redeemer Reformed Church

405.601.2255

Rev. Mark Balthrop

www.redeemerokc.org

PO Box 13431

Oklahoma City, OK 73113

1300 N. Robinson • Oklahoma City, OK 73103

As congregations, we believe the Bible is true and Jesus is Lord!

THE LITANY AND TENEBRAE OF GOOD FRIDAY

Welcome and Parish Announcements

Preparation Hymn # 84 verses 1-3 "Hallelujah! What a Savior! *Man of Sorrows*

Opening Blessing

P) In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C) Amen.

Opening Litany

P) For almost forty days we have traveled the Lenten road.

C) And now it descends to its lowest point.

P) Tonight we hit the bottom. Tonight we face death.

C) Tonight we grieve our LORD. Tonight we bury Jesus.

P) Death is the stark reality of this night, and it is not pleasant.

C) Death invades our lives and ends our joy. Death destroys what is beautiful.

P) So it is right that this night is marked with sorrow and grief.

C) But this is Good Friday, and sadness is not the only word, and sorrow is not the only mood.

P) Indeed, this is Good Friday and death is not the end. Christ's death itself is the source of our life and our hope.

C) So we grieve and we rejoice. We mourn and we celebrate.

P) We mark this holy day by living the story once again.

C) We mark this holy day by carrying the truth of the story into our lives.

(Please use kneelers or be seated)

Confession and Absolution

P) Throughout these days of Lent we have contemplated sin in the world and in our own lives. Tonight we are compelled to face the harsh reality of our sin and the brokenness that it brings.

C) LORD God, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness. We have failed to follow Your will. We have refused to obey Your Law. We are unable to fulfill Your plan. We are crushed under the weight of our sin, and tonight the harsh reality of sin's horror hangs heavy around us. It is sin that made the cross necessary. It is our sin that required the Savior's death. LORD, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness.

P) Harshly dealt with, He bore it humbly, He never opened His mouth (Is 53:7). And the Lord burdened Him with the sins of us all. For our sakes Christ was willing to walk the path of obedience to death.

C) His death on the Cross.

P) Through the obedience of this one Man;

C) The many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

TOTAL DARKNESS!

The church shall be darkened as all pray:

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.

After a brief silence, A LOUD NOISE is made to suggest the earthquake of the passion narrative. This is symbolic of our Lord's completed work of salvation and promised Resurrection. A gavel is used to symbolize that God has passed a "Not Guilty" verdict upon His people!

THE LIGHTED CANDLE IS RETURNED to the altar. It reminds us of the glorious Resurrection of Christ, the Light of the world.

This symbolizes the fact that even in the confusing midst of hell and the darkness of death, these powers shall not prevail against the Light of Christ.

His Resurrection is sure! He lives eternally! And we, too, shall live!

ALL LEAVE THE CHURCH IN SILENCE, as quietly as possible.

Part V – John 19:28-29 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, **“I am thirsty.”**²⁹ 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.

Hymn # 71 – “Jesus Keep Me near the Cross” Near the Cross
(Fifth candle is extinguished)

Part VI – John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **“It is finished.”** With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hymn # 61 – “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” Passion Chorale
(Sixth candle is extinguished)

Part VII - Luke 23:46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”** When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Silent Meditation

One candle remains burning to symbolize, that even in the midst of death and darkness, the forces of hell shall not prevail against the Light of Christ.

The **ONE REMAINING CANDLE IS REMOVED** from the altar and taken from the chancel. The darkness reminds us of the death of our Lord. [1 Peter 3:18-19]

P) Praise to the God of Israel: For He has turned to His people, saved them and set them free, and has raised up a deliverer of victorious power from the house of His servant David.

C) So He promised: Age after age He proclaimed by the lips of His holy prophets, that He would deliver us from our enemies, out of the hands of all who hate us; that He would deal mercifully with our fathers, calling to mind His solemn covenant.

P) Such was the oath He swore to our father Abraham, to rescue us from enemy hands, and grant us, free from fear, to worship Him with a holy worship, with uprightness of heart, in His presence, our whole life long:

*P) It was sin that made the cross necessary, but it was love that drove Jesus to the cross and held Him there. **It was love for you.** Because of Jesus’ love and His perfect sacrifice, your sins have been covered. The debt has been paid. The burden has been removed. You have God’s grace. **You have the Father’s forgiveness. C) Amen.***

C) And You, My Child, shall be called Prophet of the Highest, for You will be the Lord’s forerunner, to prepare His way and lead His people to salvation through knowledge of Him, by the forgiveness of their sins: for in the tender compassion of our God the morning sun from heaven will rise upon us, to shine on those who live in darkness, under the cloud of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:76-79)

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (ESV) Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— ¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. **53** Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 (ESV) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ... ^{5:7}In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and

supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Gospel Reading: John 19:17-30 (ESV) So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” ²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P) This is the Gospel of our Lord, C) Thanks be to Christ.

Hymn #67 “There Is A Green Hill Far Away”

Prayer for Good Friday

P) Here we are, O God, standing in the midst of Your love for us in Jesus, our LORD. Help us to understand more fully that life and salvation have come through His suffering and death on the cross. Let the redeeming power of His sacrifice flow into our souls. Here let us find forgiveness for sin and the hope that makes life possible. Here we are, O God: We ask You in Your holy Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. C) Amen.

The Words from The Cross & The Tenebrae

“Six Hours on the Cross”

Part I - Luke 23:32-34 *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.*

Hymn #72 “What Wondrous Love Is This”
(First candle is extinguished)

Wondrous Love

Part II – Luke 23:39-43 *One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus answered him, “**I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.**”*

Hymn # 62 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”
(Second candle is extinguished)

St. Christopher

Part III – John 19:26-27 *When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “**Dear woman, here is your son,**” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “**Here is your mother.**” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.*

Hymn # 53 “When I Survey”
(Third candle is extinguished)

Hamburg

DARKNESS! *(The ceiling lights are turned off to symbolize the darkness from Noon to 3 PM.)*

Part IV – Matthew 27:45-46 *From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “**Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?**”—which means, “**My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?**”*

Hymn # 70 “Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed”
(Fourth candle is extinguished)

Martyrdom