

**A Service of Tenebrae**  
**Friday, April 2, 2021**

INVOCATION

Dear Friends, we have come together at this solemn moment in the life of the church, to reflect on the sufferings of our Lord in his last days, and to dwell on our own shortcomings and human failings. Our hearts are great with sorrow and contrition, as we pray forgiveness for the errors of our foolish and arrogant ways. The darkness covers us all, and our spirits are brought low. Come then, let us walk in the shadows. Come then, let us seek the light.

Leader:               He was despised and rejected of all, a man of sorrows,  
acquainted with grief, and we hid our faces from him. He  
was despised, and we knew him not.

**All:     Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. Yet  
we knew him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

Leader:               But he was wounded for our transgressions. He was  
bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace  
was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

**All:     All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned each of us  
to our own ways, and God has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

**HYMN:**                               *"Ah, Holy Jesus"* LBW #123, verses 1-2

Ah, holy Jesus, how has thou offended,  
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee;  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.

## THE WATCH

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-45

**HYMN**      *“Go to Dark Gethsemane”*                      LBW #109, verse 1

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s power;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

*(The first candle is extinguished.)*

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your loving kindness.  
According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my  
transgressions.

**All: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my  
sin. I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sins are ever  
before me.**

Leader: Behold, I was raised in iniquity, and in sin did my mother  
conceive me. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts, and in  
the hidden parts you shall make me to know wisdom.

**All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit  
within me. Cast me not from your presence, and take not your  
holy spirit from me.**

## THE BETRAYAL

Scripture Readings: Matthew 26:47-56

**HYMN:**                      *“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”*                      LBW # 457

Jesus, priceless treasure, Source of purest pleasure,  
Truest friend to me:  
Ah, how long I’ve panted, And my heart has fainted,  
Thirsting, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spotless Lamb;  
I will suffer nought to hide thee, Nought I ask beside thee.

*(The second candle is extinguished.)*

Leader: O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor chasten me in your displeasure.

**All: Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak, O Lord, heal me in my distress.**

Leader: For in death there is no remembrance of you. In the grave who shall give you thanks?

**All: The Lord has heard my supplication. The Lord will receive my prayer.**

### THE DENIAL

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:57-75

**HYMN:** *"In the Hour of Trial"* LBW # 106

In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me, Lest by base denial I depart from thee. When thou seest me waver, With a look recall; Nor from fear or favor Suffer me to fall.	With forbidden pleasures Should this vain world charm, Or its sordid treasures Spread to work me harm, Bring to my remembrance Sad Gethsemane, Or, in darker semblance, Cross-crowned Calvary.
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*(The third candle is extinguished.)*

Leader: Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto you.

**All: Hide not your face from me in the days when I am in trouble. Incline your ear unto me when I call.**

Leader: My days are like a shadow that wanes, and I am withered like the grass.

**All: But you, O Lord, shall endure forever, and your remembrance unto all generations.**

## THE GUILT

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:1-5

**HYMN:**            *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* LBW # 301, verse 1

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.

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

Leader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins  
are concealed.

**All: Blessed are they unto whom the Lord punishes not  
wickedness, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Leader: The Lord is our hiding place. He shall protect us from trouble,  
and shall surround us with songs of deliverance.

**All: Many sorrows shall be to the wicked, but those who trust in  
the Lord shall receive mercy.**

## THE JUDGMENT

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:13-25

**HYMN:**            *“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* LBW #109, verses 2-3

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 suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Calvary’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.

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

Leader: Hear my prayer, O Lord. Give ear to my supplications. In your faithfulness and in your righteousness, answer me.

**All: Enter not into judgment with your servant, for in your sight shall no man living be justified.**

Leader: Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, for I fly unto you for safety.

**All: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Your spirit is good. Lead me into the land of righteousness.**

### THE CRUCIFIXION

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:26-34

**HYMN:** *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

LBW # 117

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.

How art thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn;  
How does that visage languish Which once was bright as morn!  
The grief and bitter Passion Were all for sinners gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, But thine the deadly pain.

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.

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 he who dies believing Dies safely in thy love.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

Leader: O Lord, rebuke me not in your wrath, neither chasten me in your displeasure.

**All: For my iniquities are gone over my head, and as a heavy burden, I can bear them no more.**

Leader: I am troubled. I am bowed down greatly. I go mourning all the day long.

**All: I am feeble and sore broken. I have cried out by reason of the disquietness of my heart.**

Leader: My heart pants. My strength fails me. The light of my eyes is gone from me.

**All: Forsake me not, O Lord, O Lord, O my God, be not far from me.**

### **THE COMMENDATION**

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:39-47

**HYMN:**                                    *“Jesus Remember Me”*                                    WOV # 740

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

Leader: Out of the depths have I cried unto you, O Lord, hear my voice, and let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

**All: If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with you, that you might be feared.**

Leader: I will wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in his word do I hope.

**All: My soul waits for the Lord more than they who watch for the morning. Let us hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy and with him is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem us from all our iniquities.**

**HYMN:**

*“Ah, Holy Jesus”*

LBW #123, verses 4-5

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation;  
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter Passion,  
For my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;  
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving.

Scripture Reading: John 16:16

A little while and you shall not see me, and again, a little while, and you shall see me.

(The Christ candle is extinguished.)

**SOLO**

*“Were You There?”*

**SILENT MEDITATION-** Everyone is to depart at will, in silence.