



## Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 3, 2026, 8:00 pm

*The Day:* Tenebrae comes from the Latin word meaning “shadows” or “darkness.” Through the gospel readings and music, our attention is clearly focused on the somber events of Good Friday. Moments of silent reflection following each reading

provide opportunities for meditation and prayer, drawing us further into the unique theme of this service. The gradual extinguishing of all the candles is symbolic of the flight of the disciples and of the apparent victory of darkness. This seeming victory of darkness is culminated in the extinguishing of the final light, the Christ candle. But it is in this death, this darkness, that the meaning of the Cross is fulfilled. Reflecting on the incredible depth of God’s love for us, we leave the darkened church in silence.

*Welcome to the worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*

*Please silence electronic devices during this quiet time of preparing our hearts for worship.  
Silent Prayer*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE TENEBRAE SERVICE

### PRELUDE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** God of Life-Giving grace, we give you thanks for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh, who is more powerful than all darkness, and who came to this world not to condemn us, but to save us, even in the darkest hour. Draw us ever closer even in our darkness, to Jesus Christ our Savior, lifted high on the cross in complete sacrifice and love, with arms outstretched to draw all people unto himself.

**C** Amen.

## READING

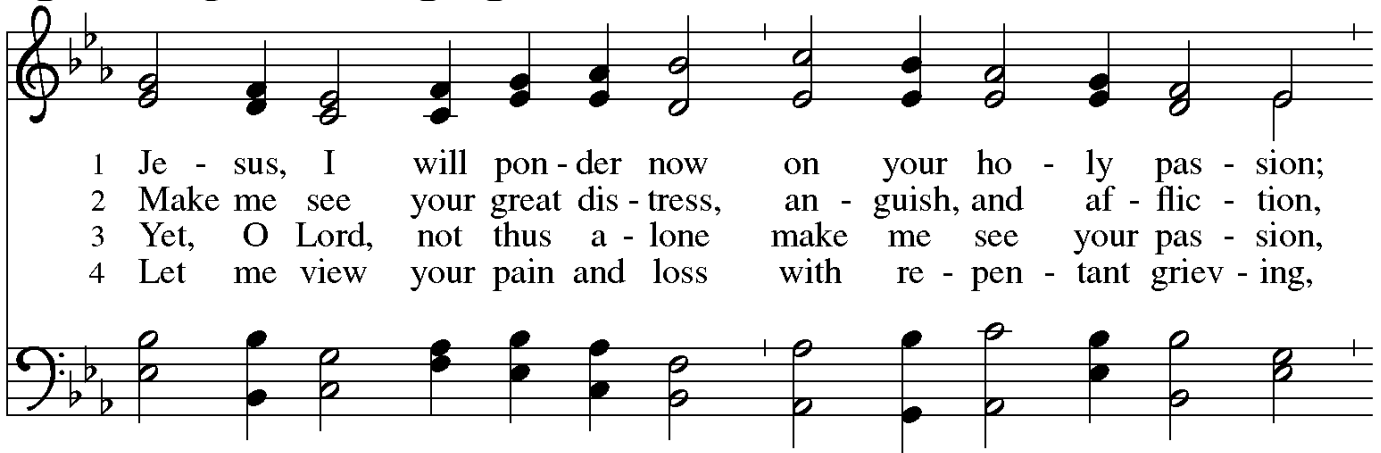
John 19:14-16

“Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, ‘Here is your King!’ They cried out, ‘Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!’ Pilate asked them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but the emperor.’ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.”

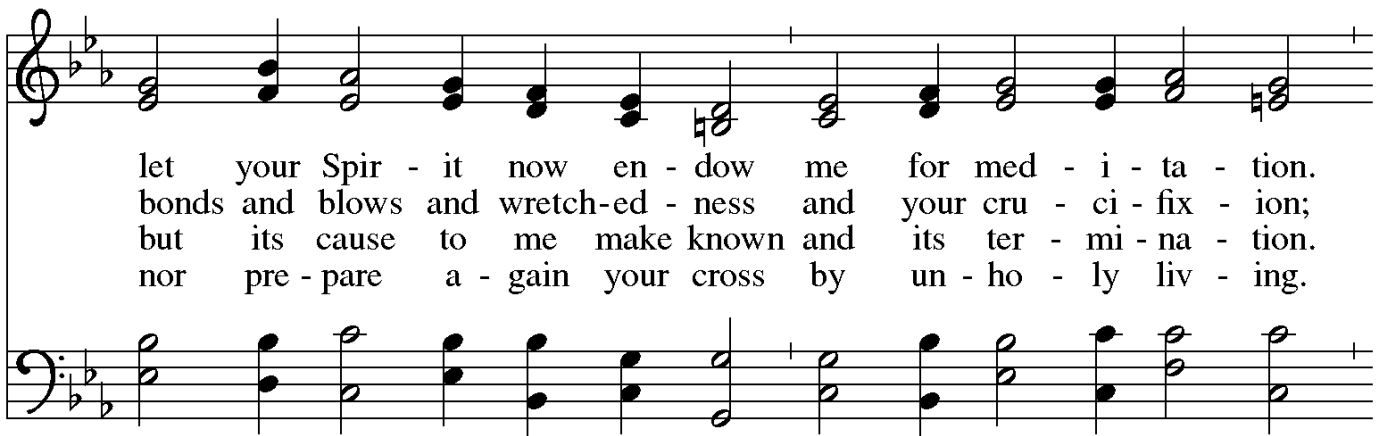
## HYMN JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

ELW #345

Organ, harp, and congregation



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;  
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,  
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,  
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.  
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;  
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.  
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.

Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish  
 make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,  
 For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;  
 May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,

of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.  
 how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.  
 this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.  
 that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

*Sit*

## I. THE FIRST WORD

Luke 23:27-34a

*“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

“A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For 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.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?’ Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When 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. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing.”

*Brief Thoughts on the word*

AVE VERUM

Choir

**II. THE SECOND WORD:**

**Luke 23:39-43**

*“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

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

*Brief Thoughts on the word*

**HYMN**

**JESUS, REMEMBER ME**

**ELW #616**

**Harp and congregation**

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

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

### III. THE THIRD WORD:

John 19:25b-27

*“Woman, here is your son... here is your mother.”*

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

*Brief Thoughts on the word*

### HYMN

ELW #351

O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED (HARP AND CONGREGATION)

Organ, harp, and congregation

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano accompaniment features a steady harmonic accompaniment with some melodic movement in the bass line.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
 for all who die believ - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

#### IV. THE FOURTH WORD:

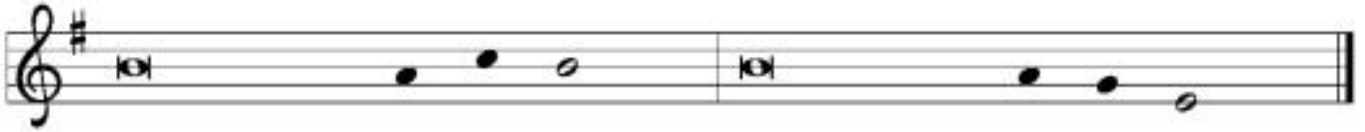
Matthew 27:45-47

*“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”*

“From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have your forsaken me?’ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’”

*Brief Thoughts on the word*

PSALM 22:1-8, 14-16 *(sung responsively)*



- <sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?  
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?
- <sup>2</sup> **My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer;  
by night, but I | find no rest.**
- <sup>3</sup> Yet you are the | Holy One,  
enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> **Our ancestors put their | trust in you,  
they trusted, and you | rescued them.**
- <sup>5</sup> They cried out to you and | were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup> **But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,  
scorned by all and despised | by the people.**
- <sup>7</sup> All who see me laugh | me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.
- <sup>8</sup> **“Trust in the Lord; let the | Lord deliver;**
- <sup>14</sup> **I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.**
- <sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the  
roof | of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the | dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup> **Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;  
they pierce my hands | and my feet.**

V. THE FIFTH WORD:

John 19:28-29

*“I am thirsty.”*

“After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), ‘I am thirsty.’ A 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.”

*Brief Thoughts on the word*

**HYMN**            **O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER**  
**Organ, harp, and congregation**

**ELW #751**

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and an instrumental line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God." The second system has the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life." The instrumental line provides a harmonic accompaniment for the vocal line.

**VI. THE SIXTH WORD:**

**John 19:30a**

*“It is finished.”*

“When Jesus had received the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’”

*Brief Thoughts on the word*

**VOLAISE**

**Violin Solo**

**Andrew Kollmeyer**

**VII. THE SEVENTH WORD:**

**Luke 23:46**

*“Father, into your hand I commend my spirit.”*

“Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.’ Having said this, he breathed his last.”

*Brief Thoughts on the word*

**SOLO**

**WERE YOU THERE**

**Rita Mathsen, mezzo and harp**

**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 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.**

*We leave the darkened church in silence*



## **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH SCHEDULE**

*9:00 am: Easter Breakfast*

*9:30 am: Easter Activity for Children*

*10:30 am: Worship with Holy Communion*

***JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!***

