



Pilgrim
LUTHERAN
Church

Tenebrae Service of Darkness



April 3, 2026
Good Friday

As We Gather

Our Holy Week worship began last evening, as we remembered the Last Supper, and the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. These sacred and somber events were but a prelude to what took place on the awful, awesome day of Good Friday.

Welcome

Good Friday Versicles

Psalm 22: 1-5

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

C: Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

P: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

C: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

P: In you our fathers trusted;

C: They trusted, and you delivered them.

P: To you they cried and were rescued;

C: In you they trusted and were not put to shame.

Opening Hymn

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Holy Father, we confess our sins to you, and we plead for forgiveness and renewal for your Son's sake.

C: O God, I pray for your mercy, as I stand in the shadow of Christ's cross this night. Accept his worthiness for my unworthiness, his holiness for my transgression, his purity for my uncleanness. Take Christ's truth for my deceits, his meekness for my pride, his faithfulness for my faithlessness, his love for my hostility. Admit my Savior's obedience for my lawlessness, his righteousness for my dead works, his death for my life. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus, who gave his life for you, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Good Friday Prayer

P: Jesus, Son of God and Redeemer of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Jesus, betrayed by a friend with a kiss, accused by false witnesses,
and sentenced to death,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Jesus, whipped and bruised for our sins, stripped of your garments,
and nailed to the cross,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Crucified Savior, you carried our sins in your own body on the cross so that we might
have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world
to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

C: Grant us your peace. Amen.

The Service of Tenebrae

The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin for "shadows" and reminds us of the "darkness" which overshadowed Calvary. The gradual extinguishing of the candles as the Passion according to St. John is read, signifies the growing bitterness of the world against Jesus, the flight of his disciples, the increasing darkness without, and the agony within. The central candle signifies Jesus himself, the Light of the world. The removal of this candle from the altar symbolizes the death of Jesus. Its return reminds us of his resurrection to come. The loud sound called the "strepitus" signifies the door of the tomb is shut and acknowledges that the meaning of the cross is fulfilled. After the Benediction, the congregation rises and leaves in silence, taking the mood of the service home.

Trial

John 19:1-11

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. 4 Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" 6 When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." 7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" 11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

Hymn

O Sacred Head Now Wounded (vv. 1 & 3)

LSB 450

First candle is extinguished.

Sentencing

John 19: 12-16a

12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." 13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Second candle is extinguished.

Golgotha

John 19:16b-22

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."

Hymn

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (vv. 1 & 3)

LSB 451

Third candle is extinguished.

Crucifixion

John 19: 23-27

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.

Fourth candle is extinguished.

Death

John 19: 28-30

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.

Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (vv. 1 & 3)

LSB 425

Fifth candle is extinguished.

Piercing

John 19: 31–37

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

Sixth candle is extinguished.

Burial

John 19: 38–42

38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. 39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Hymn

Were you there? (vv. 1 & 3)

LSB 456

Seventh candle is extinguished.

The Christ Candle is Removed

The Lord's Prayer

Whispered

**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 Strepitus

The Blessing

After the blessing, we will leave in silence remembering our Lord's ultimate sacrifice. We invite you to return on Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ's victory.

Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes



Serving at Worship Today

Preaching & Presiding

Pastor Lew Upchurch

Director of Music

Mary Harper

Upcoming Events



Learn more about all upcoming events at pilgrimsm.org/calendar

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Pilgrim
L U T H E R A N
Church

Called by the Holy Spirit,
**we are an intergenerational community of
worship and service**
that invites the people of
Santa Monica and beyond
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ
through Word and Sacraments.**

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