

Good Friday

Tenebrae: The Service of Shadows

7:00 p.m. April 18, 2025



The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

2415 Chili Avenue

Rochester, NY

Prelude

(Please stand for the procession and reading of Psalm 51)

Psalm 52

Pastor: 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 judgment.
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 with in 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.

A Litany of Forgiveness

Pastor: When they came to the place called, “The Skull,” they crucified Jesus there, and Jesus said:

All: **Father, Forgive them! For they don’t know what they are doing.**

Pastor: For denying Jesus;

All: **Father, Forgive them, forgive us.**

Pastor: For running away at the time of need;

All: **Father, Forgive them, forgive us.**

Pastor: For mocking, beatings, and insults;

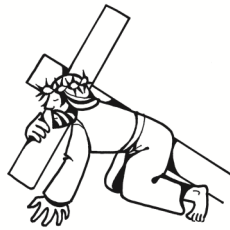
All: **Father, Forgive them, forgive us.**

Pastor: For just following orders that brought about crucifixion;

All: **Father, Forgive them, forgive us.**

Pastor: For the cross on which Jesus died, and for the crosses we erect on which we hang our sister and brothers;

All: **Father, Forgive us! For we don’t know what we are doing.**



Prayer of Confession

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: **Everlasting and merciful God, you are always more ready to forgive than we are to repent. We remember this day the suffering and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ and confess to you our shame in the sins which crucified him. Grant us grace that we may be reconciled to you, through your Son and our Lord. Amen**

Opening Hymn

"Where you There"

E \flat Fm B \flat E \flat A \flat E \flat

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

A \flat E \flat B \flat A \flat B \flat

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain E \flat A \flat E \flat A \flat E \flat G Cm A \flat E \flat A \flat B \flat

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

A \flat E \flat Fm B \flat E \flat A \flat E \flat

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Bidding Prayer

(You may be seated)

Reader: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God through out the world, that God the almighty father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship God in peace and tranquility.

(Silence is kept)

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reader: Let us pray for Elizabeth and Lee, our bishops, for all pastors and other ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

(Silence is kept)

Reader: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastors and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those preparing for Baptism, that they are responsive to God's love, and given new life in Jesus Christ.

(Silence is kept)

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for Baptism. Give them a new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reader: Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one Church all those who know Christ as Lord.

(Silence is kept)

Reader: Almighty and eternal God, you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our Baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promise.

(Silence is kept)

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and Sarah and their posterity. Hear the prayers of your Church that the people you first made your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Reader: Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

(Silence is kept)

Reader: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grown in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of you Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find God who is the author and goal of our existence.

(Silence is kept)

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, they may all recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Reader: Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

(Silence is kept)

Reader: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease.

(Silence is kept)

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Reader: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

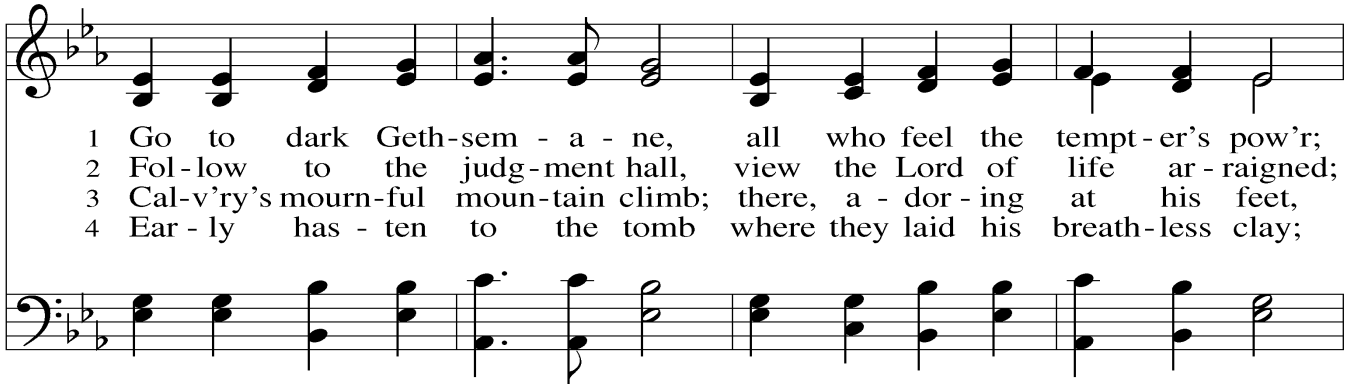
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

TENEBRAE I



Hymn

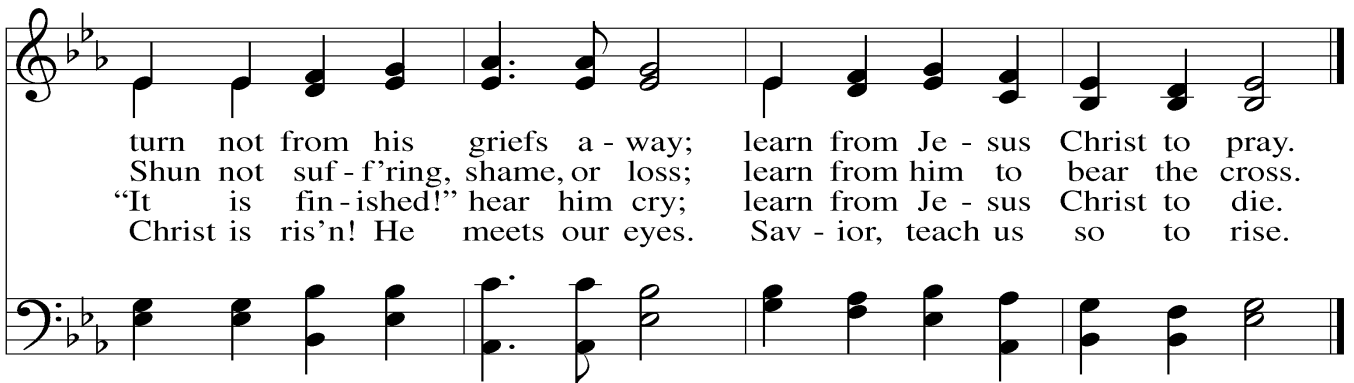
"Go To Dark Gethsemane"



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin-ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

First Reading *Luke 22:3-22*

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.” They asked him, “Where do you want us to make preparations for it?”

Listen, he said to them, “when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.”

So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Commentary

“Judas”

(the Judas Candle is extinguished)

Prayer

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

(remain seated ~ silence is kept)

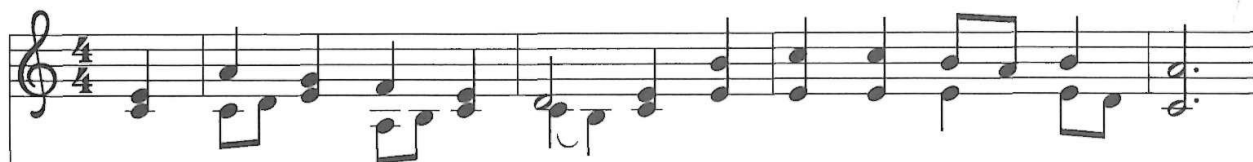
Reader: Lord, You were forsaken by one of Your own disciples, who betrayed You into the hands of sinful men. Never forsake us, O Lord, and send Your Spirit that we, who have betrayed You by our sins, may yet hold fast to You, so that we may not forsake You.

All: Amen.

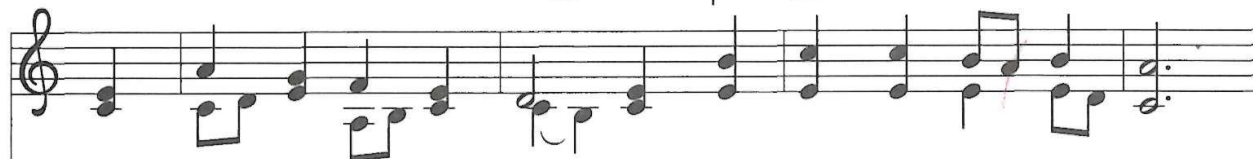
TENEBRAE II



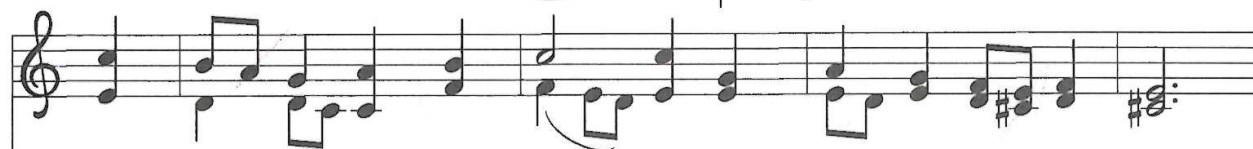
Hymn



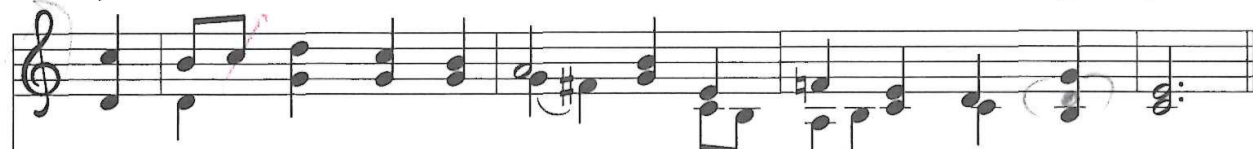
1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,



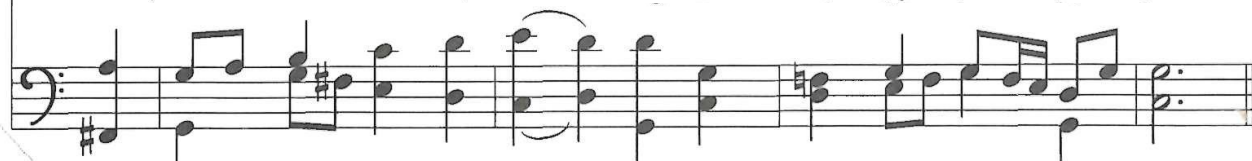
now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?



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,



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.



Second Reading

Mark 14:33-50

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark.

He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

All of them deserted him and fled.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Commentary

“The Disciples”

(the Eleven Disciples’ Candles are extinguished)

Prayer

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

(remain seated ~ silence is kept)

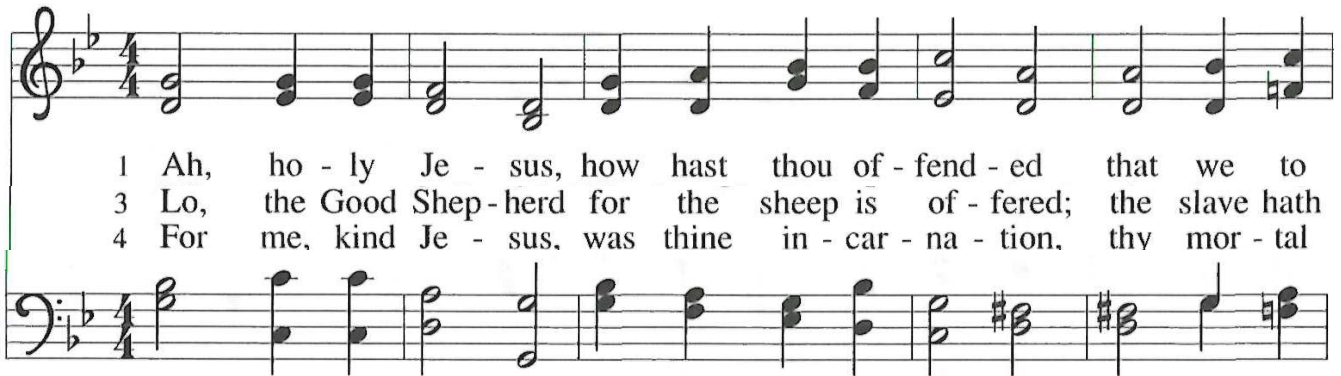
Reader: Lord, You were forsaken by Your disciples who deserted You and fled. When we are tempted to desert You, send Your Spirit-given gift of faith, that we may hold fast to You, and never forsake You.

All: Amen.

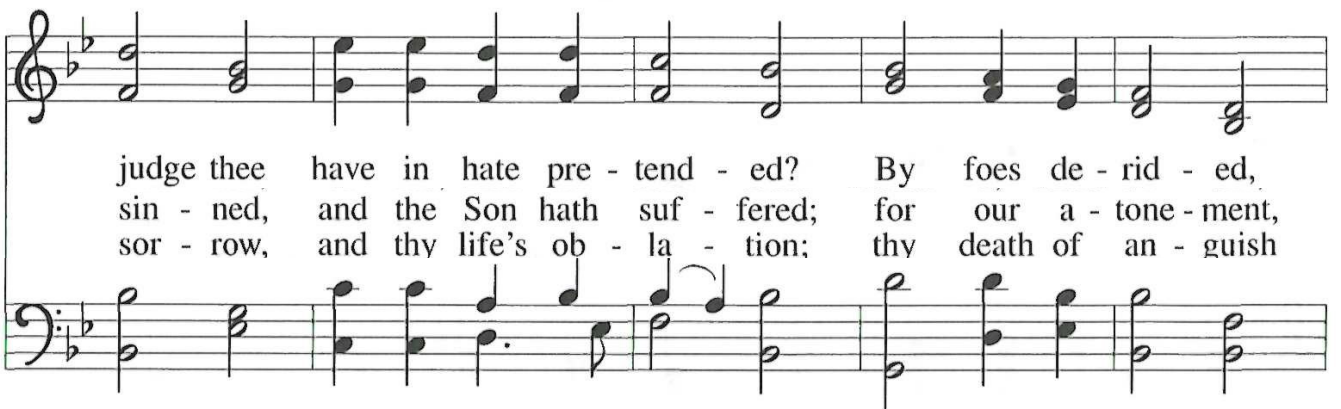
TENEBRAE III



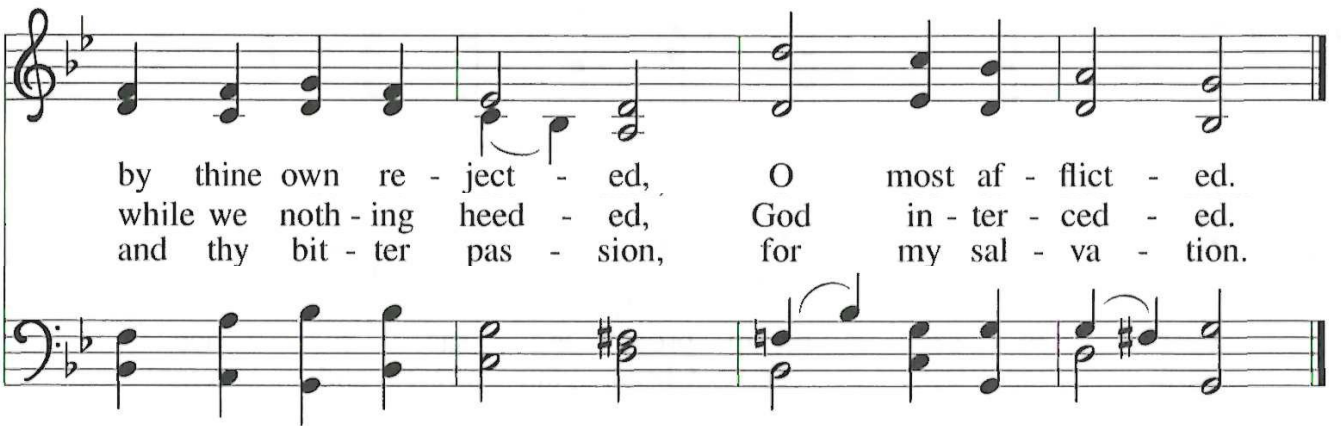
Hymn



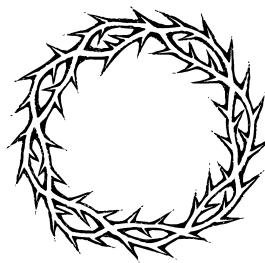
1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.



Third Reading

Luke 23:13-25

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and 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. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A 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.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**





Choral Commentary
“When You Prayed Beneath the Trees”
Words by Christopher Idle

When you prayer beneath the trees, it was for me O Lord;
When you cried upon your knees, how could it be, O Lord?
When in blood and sweat and tears, you dismissed your final fears?
When you faced the soldiers spears, you stood for me, O Lord.
When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord;
When it seemed like your defeat, they could not see, O Lord!
When you faced the mob alone, you were silent as a stone,
and a tree became your throne; you came for me, O Lord.
When you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord;
when you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord;
When they lifted you on high, and they nailed you up to die,
and when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, O Lord.

(the People’s Candles are extinguished)

Reader: The Lord be with you.

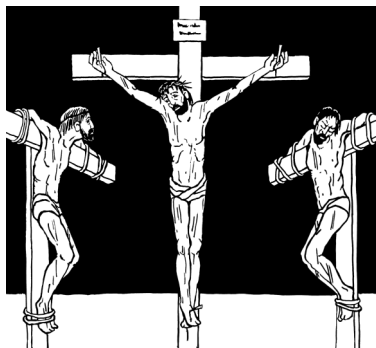
All: **And also with you.**

Reader: Let us pray. *(remain seated ~ silence is kept)*

Reader: Lord, You were denied even by Your own faithful disciple, Peter. When we deny You by our sinful actions, restore us in Your forgiving love, and never forsake us who so often forsake You.

All: **Amen.**

TENEBRAE IV



Hymn

1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - 'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: it's all that I can do.

Fourth Reading

Matthew 27:32-50

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "you who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

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 you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At 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. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Commentary

“The Christ”

Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

(remain seated ~ silence is kept)

Pastor: Lord Jesus, on the cross You were taunted by those who crucified You, by those who stood by and watched, and by those crucified with You. The world still taunts You and forsakes You; by Your Spirit, let us look upon Your cross and find strength to witness boldly in Your name.

All: Amen.

*(The chimes are rung 33 times for the number of years of our Lord’s life;
a door is slammed signifying the closing of the tomb.*

*The Christ Candle symbolizing God’s love is returned to the Chancel
where it will remain until Easter.)*

(The People Exit the Church in Silence)



Tenebrae: Service of Shadows

In the ancient church, the chanting of psalms on Thursday or Friday of Holy Week became part of their congregational worship life. In its original form at the conclusion, the fifteenth candle, representing Christ, was placed behind the altar leaving the church in darkness. In its amended form, the Christ Candle is returned to the altar, signifying that, even this day, “nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”