GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH GOOD FRIDAY 2012

SEVEN Last Words FROM THE ODOS



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

460 75th Ave. NE Fridley, MN 55432

763-784-8784

www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org

Pastor: John Hein (jphein@clclutheran.com)
Church Year: Good Friday

Organist: Janelle Hein
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Welcome: We welcome all who worship with us this evening. Tonight we will be following what is known as a Tenebrae Service. The word "tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "darkness" or "shadows." In the early Christian Church a Tenebrae Service was held in remembrance of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus. During this ancient service a candle was extinguished after each Scripture reading was completed. This was symbolic of the progressive darkening depths of Jesus' suffering, and of man's darkening depths of sin for which Jesus died.

In our worship this evening we continue that ancient tradition with an adaptation of such a service. As each of the seven readings are completed in the last part of the service, candles will be extinguished. At the end of the service, one candle will remain burning. This is the Christ candle. This candle will be carried out at the end of the service to symbolize Christ's three days in the tomb. Yet our Savior was not overcome by death, but rather He overcame sin and hell through death. When Jesus died on the cross, God's love for mankind did not die. That is why the Christ candle remains lighted. The burial of our Savior only serves to heighten our anticipation of Easter morning, when God would raise His Son and give to mankind His assurance of sins forgiven and Life Eternal.

Though the death of our Savior has now removed the threat and terror of death for us sinners, Good Friday remains a most solemn observance. Therefore, this evening we ask that you refrain from talking following the service until after you leave the church proper. This is a time for prayerful reflection on the part of God's Children. Though you may find it difficult to see and read by the end of the service, this serves also to remind us of our spiritual blindness apart from Christ Jesus our Lord.

SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Many of the hymns this evening were written in 1934 by W.G. Polack, one of the editors of The Lutheran Hymnal who did a series on the 7 words of Christ.

THE ORDER OF GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 中

Pastoral Entrance:

- Opening Prayer, Announcements, The Invocation:
 - P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 - C: Amen.
 - P: Let us confess our sins before our Savior, Jesus Christ, the One who has redeemed us ...
 - Dear Heavenly Father, we ask You to look on us with compassion. We confess our many sins to You and ask You to forgive us for Jesus' sake, even as He interceded for us from the cross ...
 - C: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
 - P: We are ashamed of our past lawlessness and we realize that we deserve nothing but punishment. According to Your mercy forgive us, as You did the repentant thief who died with Your Son. Speak to our hearts with the words Your dear Son spoke to him ...
 - C: "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
 - P: Provide, O Lord, for our earthly needs, as even in Your most bitter agony You provided for Your dear mother ...
 - C: "Dear woman, here is your son ..."
 - P: We thank and praise You, dear Savior, that You suffered hell for us and in our place. Now we need never fear the separation from God that You had to suffer ...
 - C: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
 - P: Send, we pray, the Holy Spirit into our hearts to strengthen our faith. Grant us a longing and a thirst for Your Words of Life ...
 - C: "I am thirsty."
 - P: Grant that we never try to do for ourselves what only Your Son could do for us. We acknowledge that our salvation is complete in

Jesus' suffering and death, and that our own works can earn us nothing. The debt has been paid in full ...

- C: "It is finished!"
- P: Finally, Dear Father, take us from this day forward and make us Your own in all things. We are Your servants, with our dying breath may we pray as did Your Son ...
- C: "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."
 - Sing []: Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
 Thy grace abused, my misspent years.
 Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
 Christ Crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain, Let nothing of my sin remain. For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ Crucified, I come.

Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blest With healing gifts for souls distrest, To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ Crucified, I come. (TLH 390)

- P: Through Christ's atoning blood, we have peace with God! Be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven! As the Scripture says, "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered." Amen!
 - Sing []: Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid. (TLH 371)
- Confession of Faith: Luther's Explanation of 2nd Article

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Offering Hymn: TLH 388:1-2, 5-6: Just as I Am

- [All] Just as I am, without one plea
 But that Thy blood was shed for me
 And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- [Men] Just as I am and waiting not
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- [Women] Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- [All] Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down. Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Choir: Lamb of God

The First Word: Luke 23:32–34

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Candles Extinguished & Silent Meditation:

Hymn: First Word (TLH 155)

- "Father, graciously forgive them, For they know not what they do." Jesus spoke in deep compassion As the nails were driven through.
- Human sin and pride and hatred Nailed the Savior to the tree.
 Lord, those nails were also driven Through Thy hands and feet by me.

 Thus for me this Word was spoken While that dreadful deed was done. Lord, I need forgiveness truly Just as much as any one.

The Second Word: Luke 23:39-43

Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Candles Extinguished & Silent Meditation:

Hymn: The Second Word (WS 777)

- [All] "When Thou wilt to Thy kingdom come,
 O Lord, remember me!"
 The dy--ing thief repentant spoke To Christ upon the tree.
- [Women] But from those lips a word comes forth Beneath the darkened skies: "Most truly shalt thou be today With Me in paradise."
- [Men] May I, dear Lord, a sinner, too,
 By faith Thy glory see,
 And say as my departing words: "O Lord, remember me!"
- [All] Hold Thou Thy suff'ring and Thy cross
 Before my dying eyes,
 And say: "Thou, too, shalt be today With Me in paradise."

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

Candles Extinguished & Silent Meditation:

Hymn: The Third Word (TLH 118)

- Underneath the cross she stands, Weeping for her Son.
 He who wind and sea commands, Christ, the Holy One,
 There for men by men is slain. On the cursed tree.
 Mary knows His death is gain. For the world and thee!
- 3. Hear Him speak to thee alone, Mary, lovingly: "Woman, there behold thy son; He will care for thee; John, who labored at My side, Will give thee his love, Will for thee as son provide, Till we meet above."
- 4. Savior, may we fully know That Thou dost provide For Thy loved ones here below, Whatsoe'er betide! May we ever learn to be Willing all to share, Loving all for love of Thee! Hear our humble prayer.

The Fourth Word: Matthew 27:45–46

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Candles Extinguished & Silent Meditation:

Hymn: The Fourth Word (WS 725)

1. [<u>All</u>]

Enshrouded by a far-flung pall As darkness veils the sun, He hangs aloft, bereft of all, The Christ, the Holy One; And suddenly His piercing cry Rings out appealingly! He asks: "My God, my Father, why Hast Thou forsaken Me?"

2. [Pastor Only]

A mystery confronts us here, A strange and dreadful sight; For God has cast His Son most dear In--to hell's awful night, To wrestle with the Evil One, To suffer torment, pain, For man's transgression to atone, And heav'n for man to gain.

3. [All]

Dear Lord, my heartfelt thanks to Thee, For all that Thou hast done; My dearest treasure e'er shall be The vict'ry Thou hast won.

And when through death's dark vale I go, Oh, teach me by that cry Amidst the Tempter's darts to know That Thou art ever nigh!

The Fifth Word: John 19:28–29

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

Candles Extinguished & Silent Meditation:

Hymn: The Fifth Word (TLH 24)

- 2. The pain, the anguish, and the fears Upon that tree accursed, The tortures, taunts, and hateful jeers, Pressed out that cry, "I thirst," Consumed His pow-ers till at length The suff-er-ings dried up His strength.
- For waters cool, but more for men,
 The Savior thirsted there,
 That souls might turn to God again,
 And heaven's glory share.
 O Lord, and ever may I see
 Thy thirsting also was for me!

The Sixth Word: John 19:30

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" ...

Candles Extinguished & Silent Meditation:

Hymn: The Sixth Word (TLH 166)

- 1. All the burdens of the years;
 All the want, the toil, the tears;
 All the wrath man should have borne;
 All the tauntings and the scorn;
 All the agony and pain Of the Lamb for sinners slain. "It is finished!" ere He dies, Loud the Lord in triumph cries.
- 3. "It is finished!" blessed cry,
 Spoken as He turned to die.
 Praise be unto Thee, dear Lord,
 For the comfort of this word,
 For the promise it bestows Of the end of all our woes.
 Finished is in Thee our strife, And begun eternal life!

The Seventh Word: Luke 23:46

And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.

Candles Extinguished & Silent Meditation:

Hymn: The Seventh Word (TLH 552)

- Into the Father's hands the weary Child Commends His spirit, and the ghost gives up; The thorn-crowned head, by enemies reviled, Is bowed in death, - drained is the bitter cup.
- 3. The Cross of Christ, of God's great love the sign, Redemption's symbol, refuge of the soul, Oh, may it to earth's utmost limits shine And its sweet truth resound from pole to pole!
- 4. Oh, may Thy cross, dear Lord, my comfort be, And let me ever in its power confide; There Thou didst shed Thy precious blood for me: Oh, let it be my light at eventide!

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hymn:.....TLH 175: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. [All]

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. [<u>Men</u>]

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.



3. [Women]

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. [All]

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Communion Preparation: Based on Luther's Catechism

- P: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
- C: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given to us Christians under the bread and wine to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.
- P: Where is this written, as we speak the Words of Institution together?
- C: The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul write this way: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' "In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- P: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?
- C: The words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that God gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation through the sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.
- P: How can simple eating and drinking do these wonderful things?
- C: Eating and drinking actually do nothing. It is the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," which do this. These words, together with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main part of the sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins.

Communion Distribution:	Meditative Music
Post–Communion Prayer:	

Children's Recitation:......John 19:17-20, 25-30

And Jesus, bearing His cross, went out to a place called *the Place* of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, *and* Latin. ... Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Children:.....TLH 150: Lord Jesus, Thou art Going Forth

The Benediction:

The Exit of the Christ Candle:

Silent prayer:

Announcement: There will be no ushering out this evening. We ask that on this solemn occasion you please leave the church in silence after you have concluded your silent prayers. If you wish, you may remain in the church for personal meditation. Please refrain from speaking until you have left the church building, and out of respect for those wishing to remain, please greet each other quietly <u>outside</u> of the church. As you leave, it would be fitting to think of those events that occurred on that first Good Friday and of the victory that our Savior won for us by His death.



