

**LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**



**GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows'. A service of Tenebrae is a service of meditation and reflection. The Passion gospel from John is read, interspersed with music, for our reflection on what Christ has done for us. There will be seven candles lit on a table as well as the Christ or Paschal candle. With each reading and hymn selection a candle will be extinguished, until the service ends in darkness and silence. Our service includes prayers and then concludes with the Adoration of the Crucified Christ, and a time to meditate at a large cross that is processed into the sanctuary. May this be a service to inspire and strengthen you in your faith journey as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

THIS WORSHIP FOLDER contains all elements of the worship service. It is designed to encourage your participation. Please read the words in bold print and join in the singing of all hymns. Italicized words are instructions.

RESTROOMS are located to the left at the back of the sanctuary and down the short hallway.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!

Parents, you are always welcome to bring your children to worship with you.

QUIET BAGS for use by children during worship are to the left as you enter the sanctuary. Please feel free to pick one up and replace it on the hooks when you leave.

GOOD FRIDAY/LITURGY OF TENEBRAE

The assembly will please read or sing portions of the liturgy in bold type and sing the assembly hymns.

SILENT MEDITATION

As you take your seat, please remain silent. Take time to speak with God, and allow God to speak to you.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

A reading from Isaiah.

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up
and shall be very high.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1} Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

>>>Cont'd>>>

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with affliction.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out himself to death
and was numbered with the transgressors,
yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO JOHN

Part One: John 18:1-11

Jesus is betrayed and arrested.

Following the reading the first candle is extinguished.

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

ELW 347:1

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.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

Part Two: John 18:12-27

Peter says he doesn't know Jesus.

Following the reading the second candle is extinguished.

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

ELW 349:1,2

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
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
5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sorrow, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Part Three: John 18:28-40

Jesus is taken to Pilate.

Following the reading the third candle is extinguished.

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

ELW 347:2



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.



Part Four: John 19:1-7

Jesus is mocked and beaten.

Following the reading the fourth candle is extinguished.

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

ELW 351:1,2

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.

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 be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Part Five: John 19:8-16a

Jesus is condemned to death.

Following the reading the fifth candle is extinguished.

"Were You There"

ELW 353:1

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?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

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

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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Part Six: John 19:16b-22

Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Following the reading the sixth candle is extinguished.

"Were You There"

ELW 353:2

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?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

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

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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Part Seven: John 19:23-30

The death of Jesus.

Following the reading the seventh candle is extinguished.

Choir: "Lamb of God, Most Holy"

F. Melius Christiansen

Part Eight: John 19:31-42

The burial of Jesus.

Following the reading the Christ candle is removed.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray, siblings in Christ, for the holy church throughout the world.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our bishops, for all pastors, and for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

>>>Cont'd>>>

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, disease and war. 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. **Amen.**

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

**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.**

Please remain seated.

WE GLORY IN YOUR CROSS

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
**and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

May God be merciful and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.**

The Christ Candle is returned to the worship space.

Please remain in place as the ministers leave in silence.

*If you have not done so earlier, you are invited to come forward and
reverence the cross before leaving.*

All depart in silence.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Reverend Sara Ilderton	Presiding Minister
Cindy Meadows	Assisting Minister
Don Huff	Director of Music Ministries and Worship
Nancy Mersereau	Organist and Music Assistant
Marty Jenkins, Kathy DeLoache, Cooper Thom	Readers
Cliff Ilderton and Eric Forster	Cross Bearers

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter breakfast will be served from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Gathering Music begins at 10:00 a.m.

Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

**Please bring flowers to contribute to
Easter flowering of the cross.**

Credits/Acknowledgements

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“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612;
arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

“Were You There”

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual
Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

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