Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers

18 April A+D 2025

7:00 PM

The service of Tenebrae (meaning "darkness") consists of the extinguishing of the church lights. As with the service for Maundy (Holy) Thursday, there is no benediction. The extended service of the Triduum (three days) will conclude with the Vigil of Easter.

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church U. A. C.
& Rainbow Preschool

145 S. 6th Street

Waterford, Wisconsin

We are a member congregation of

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

The congregation and pastor enter in silence.

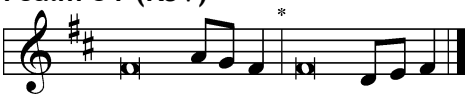
Stand

Opening Versicles

P O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm 51 (KJV)

Psalm 51



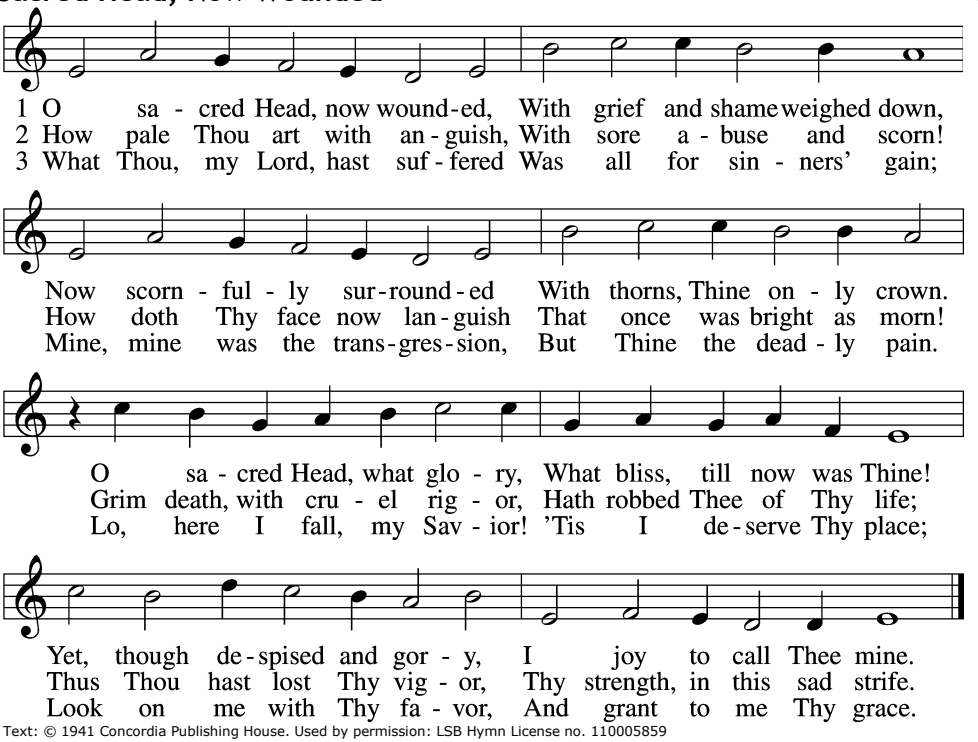
[1]Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving- |kindness;*
according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my trans- | gressions.
[2] Wash me thoroughly from mine in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin.
[3] For I acknowledge my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
[4] Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned and done this evil | in Thy sight,*
that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou | judgest.
[5] Behold, I was shaped in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
[6] Behold, Thou desirest truth in my | inward parts;*
in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know | wisdom.
[7] Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
[8] Make me to hear joy and | gladness,*
that the bones which Thou hast broken | may rejoice.
[9] Hide Thy face | from my sins,*
and blot out all mine in- | iquities.
[10] Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
[11] Cast me not away from Thy | presence,*
and take not Thy holy Spirit | from me.
[12] Restore unto me the joy of Thy sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with Thy free | Spirit.
[13] Then will I teach transgressors | Thy ways,*
and sinners shall be converted | unto Thee.
[14]Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my sal- | vation,*
and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy | righteousness.
[15]O Lord, open Thou | my lips,*
and my mouth shall show | forth Thy praise.

[16]For Thou desirest not sacrifice, else I would | give it;*
Thou delightest not in burnt | offering.
[17]The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt | not despise.
[18]Do good in Thy good pleasure unto | Zion;*
build Thou the walls of Je- | rusalem.
[19]Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,
with burnt offering and whole burnt | offering;*
then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine | altar.
Sit

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 1–3



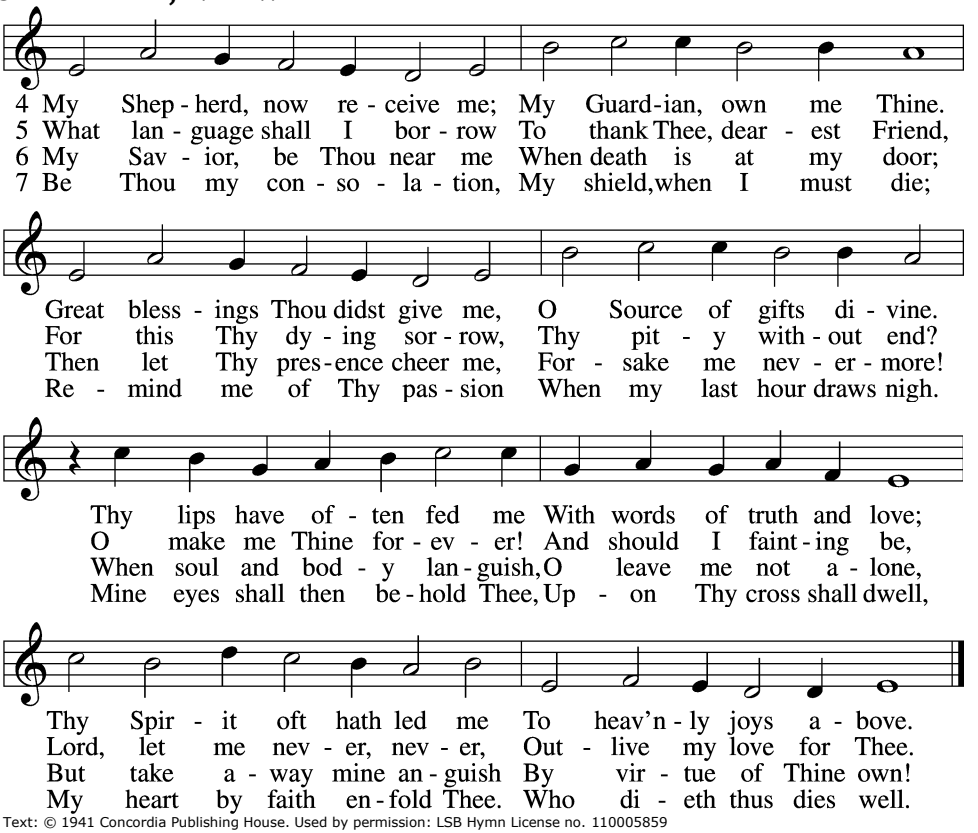
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005859

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

John 19:1-16a

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

sts. 4–7



Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005859

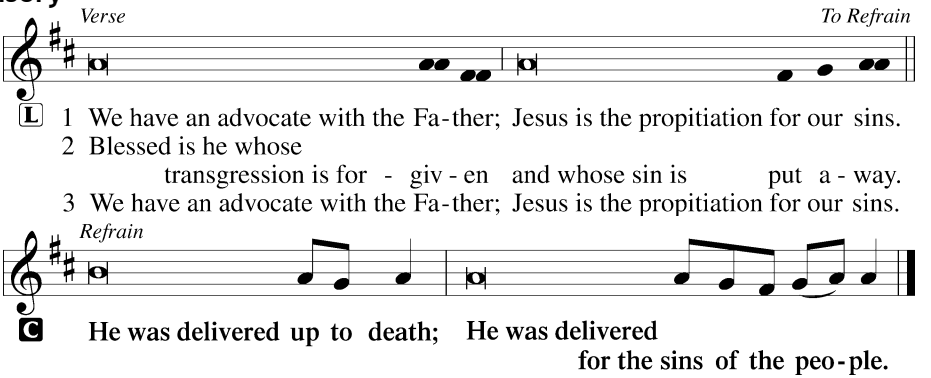
A candle is extinguished

Stand

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

John 19:16b-42

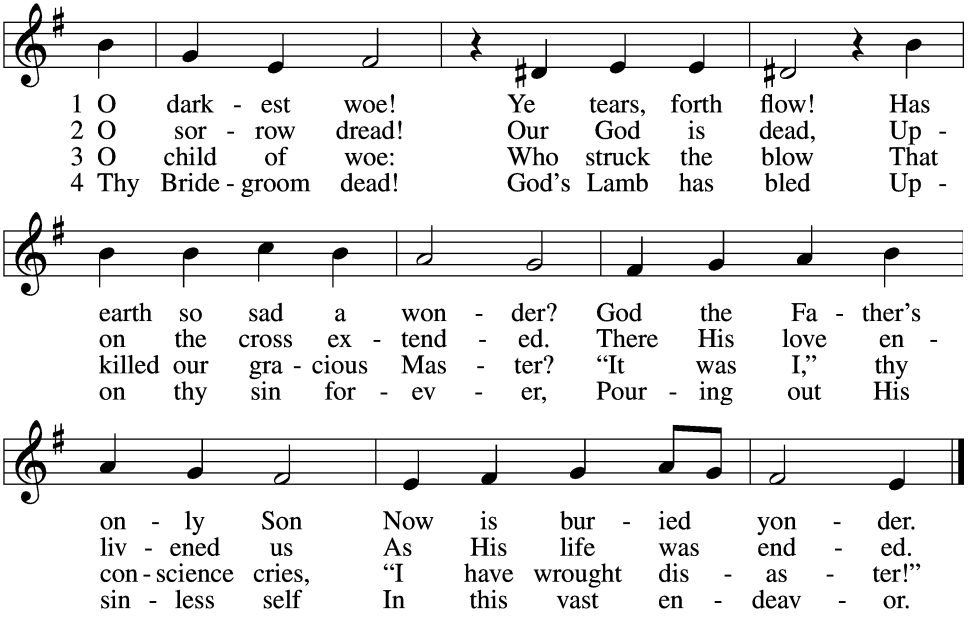
Responsory



A candle is extinguished.

Sit

448 O Darkest Woe



5 Such innocence!
His countenance
A fount of faith undying!
Worlds on worlds cannot contain
Grief at Him here lying.

6 O Virgin's Son,
What Thou hast won
Is far beyond all telling:
How our God, detested, died,
Hell and devil felling.

7 O Jesus Christ,
Who sacrificed
Thy life for lifeless mortals:
Be my life in death and bring
Me to heaven's portals!

Text (sts. 2–7): © Joseph Herl. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005859
Text (st. 1) and tune: Public domain

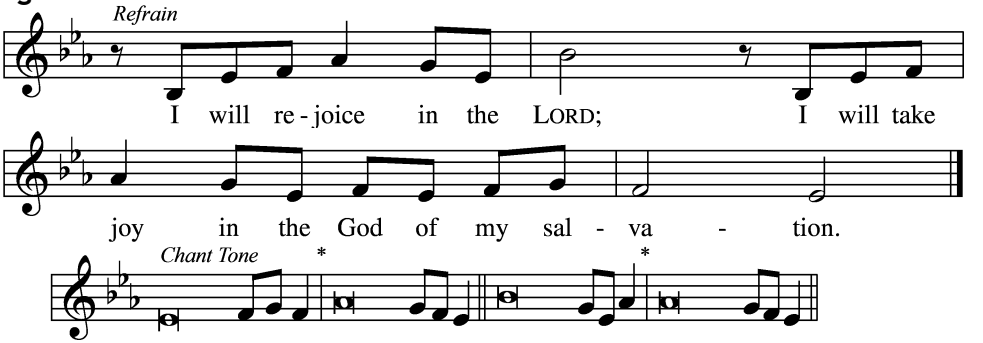
A candle is extinguished.

Sermon

A candle is extinguished.

Stand

986 Song of Habakkuk



[1] O LORD, I have heard the re- | port of You,*
and Your work, O LORD, | do I fear.

[2] In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years | make it known;*
in wrath remember | mercy.

Refrain *A candle is extinguished.*

[3] God came from | Teman,*
and the Holy One from Mount | Paran.

[4] His splendor covered the | heavens,*
and the earth was full | of His praise.

[5] His brightness was like the light; rays flashed | from His hand;*
and there He | veiled His power.

[6] Before Him went | pestilence,*
and plague followed | at His heels.

[7] He stood and mea- | sured the earth;*
He looked and shook the | nations;

[8] then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills | sank low.*
His were the ever- | lasting ways.

Refrain *A candle is extinguished.*

[9] You went out for the salvation of Your | people,*
for the salvation of Your a- | nointed.

[10] You crushed the head of the house of the | wicked,*
laying him bare from | thigh to neck.

[11] Yet I will rejoice | in the LORD;*
I will take joy in the God of my sal- | vation.

[12] God, the LORD, is my strength; He makes my feet | like the deer's;*
He makes me tread on my high | places.

Refrain *A candle is extinguished.*

Tune: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005859
Text: © 2001 Crossway Bibles. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005859

Kneel/Stand

Prayers

P Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Christ, have mercy.

C Christ, have mercy.

P Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

C 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.

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The final candle is extinguished.

The Strepitus

The strepitus consists of a loud noise that is made by slamming shut a large book. This action has a variety of interpretations, including the scourging by the soldiers, the earthquake at the moment of Christ's death, or the closing of the tomb.

All shall leave in silence.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil is at 7:40 p.m.
Easter Sunday Worship is at 7:00 & 10:00 a.m. with breakfast from 8:30-9:30

Acknowledgments

Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers. Unless otherwise indicated hymn texts and tunes are in the public domain. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

We Welcome Our Guests Today!

We're glad you've joined us in worship today. Please fill out a Visitor Card (located in the pew rack) and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate. We also ask that you read *"Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion"* printed below. Please visit our ***Welcome Center*** in the narthex and worship with us again soon.

Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion

In keeping with the tradition of the early Church and the Lutheran Confessions, we celebrate the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. Because Holy Communion is an expression of complete unity of faith and doctrine, only members of St. Peter or a sister Missouri Synod congregation may commune. This is not a judgment of the faith of others, but rather an indication of our obedience to the Lord's command that those who kneel together at His altar be in complete unity regarding what they believe and teach. Your respect for our practice concerning the Lord's Supper is appreciated. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions.

If communing with individual cup, please hold your empty cup until Pastor has passed you with the chalice. And please remember to fill out a Communion card.

The Gathering of the Offerings

God finances His church. The gathering of the offerings is, therefore, not merely collecting money. It is a holy privilege for those who believe in Jesus Christ. This is our opportunity to gratefully respond to God's love and grace by returning a portion of the gifts He has given us. As God's children, we consider it a special honor to build and extend His kingdom through our offerings. St. Paul writes, "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7b NKJV). Our visitors and guests are in no way compelled to contribute to this offering. We ask nothing of our guests except that they return here often to hear more about God's great love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. If anyone wishes to give electronically, you may scan this QR code to set up an account.

Small Children

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus wants your little ones present with Him during our worship service. And so do we.

When you're little, it's hard to sit without fidgeting or making some noise. And of course babies join us with their songs, too! We consider their small voices to be a part of our sacred music as they learn with us what it is to be a Christian. We encourage their presence throughout the entire service.

If you feel that your children are being too disruptive, please feel free to take them to the nursery that is located on the other side of the Conference Room. A closed-circuit television will bring the service to you. An usher will be happy to direct you.

"*Repetitio est mater studiorum*: Repetition is the mother of all learning." The more they're here, the easier it will get.

Church

Church Office: 262-534-3639

secretary@stpeterswaterford.com

Rev. Joshua P. H. Conradt, Pastor

pastorconradt@stpeterswaterford.com

Rainbow Preschool

Preschool Office 262-534-6066

Mr. Melvin Beversdorf, Director

director@stpeterswaterford.com

Visit us at www.stpeterswaterford.com or on Facebook