

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF DARKNESS

March 29, 2024

“Agnus Dei”



Throughout the book of Exodus God reveals who he is through his absence and his presence, through his silence and his speech, through his wrath and his mercy, and through his judgment and his amazing grace.

In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of *Jesus*.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS
*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

LENT--A TIME OF RENEWAL OF SERVANTHOOD

The word Lent comes from a word that means “spring.” In a real sense this is a spring-time for the soul--a time of evaluation, planting, and nurture. Christians do this through the disciplines of Lent:

Repentance--facing honestly the evil in our lives and asking God to cleanse us.

Prayer--seeking times for meditation and reflection. Opportunities are given tonight and each Wednesday in this season; take time to listen to God’s Word and seek His intention for your life.

Self-denial--symbolically opposing our attraction to the things of this world.

Works of love--sharing our freedom in God’s grace with those around us who need our help .

Good Friday “*Agnus Dei*” (Exodus 12:1–13)

Easter “*Against all Odds!*” (Exodus 15:1–18)

T Good Friday Tenebrae Service T

The Tenebrae (darkness) Service picks up where the Maundy Thursday Service left off. The church appears as it did after the Stripping of the Altar on Maundy Thursday. The worship setting is once again darkened and we shudder in fear of what has been done to the Son of God. All creation suffered darkness from the sixth hour to the ninth hour the day we crucified our Lord.

There is no musical prelude as the sound of music may detract our concentration from the somber meditation on Christ’s work this day. This day the focal point is the cross, where Messiah was sacrificed as the unblemished Passover Lamb.

As we extinguish the candles one by one, we are reminded of the creeping darkness of death, as Christ’s light of life ebbed away on the cross.

NOTE TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

The latter portion of our service will involve slowly turning off the sanctuary lights until only the Christ candle on the altar is lit. When it is taken away from the altar there will be the sound of a slamming book to remind worshippers of the events while Jesus hung on the cross. Please let your child know about the special ending and please be ready to reassure them that they will be safe. After the closing of the book, have the children watch for the light of Jesus to come back to the altar. Remind them that no one can take away Jesus’ light! And no one can take away heaven from your child.

Theme of the Day: From 1635 to 1640 a Spanish artist named Francisco de Zurbarán created a painting and called it *Agnus Dei*—that’s Latin for “Lamb of God.” de Zurbarán’s masterpiece points us to the wonder and awe of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

SILENT PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Gracious and merciful God, You forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and apologetic hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord and redeemer. Amen.

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

P In the Name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SILENT PROCESSIONAL

✙ Please follow the cross as it makes its way from the narthex to the chancel. ✙

CALL TO WORSHIP

(During our sermon series on Exodus we are using psalms that celebrate Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. Today we use selected verses from Psalm 80.)

P Turn us again to yourself, O God Almighty.

C **Make your face shine upon us.**

P Only then will we be saved.

C **You brought Israel from Egypt like a grapevine.**

P You drove away the nations and transplanted them into your land.

C **You cleared the ground for your people.**

P They took root and filled the land.

C **But now, our walls are broken down.**

P The wild boar from the forest devours it, and the wild animals feed on it.

C **Make your face shine upon us.**

P Look from heaven and see our plight. Take care of this grapevine

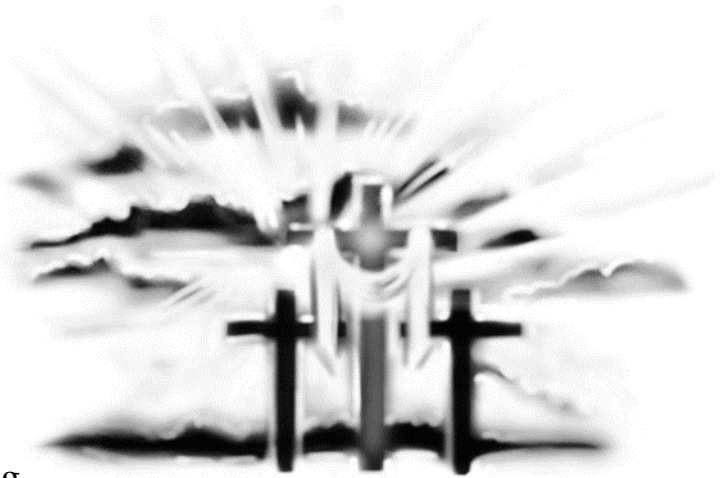
C **Turn us again to yourself, O God Almighty.**

P Make your face shine upon us.

All: Only then will we be saved.

(Be seated)

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.



Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

- P** Dear Jesus, our Savior and Lord, lead us to reverently behold the agony of Your rejection, the pain of Your condemnation, and the horror of Your crucifixion.
- C** **Bring us to the places You walked and to the people you encountered on that Friday so long ago.**
- P** Stay with us, Lord, as we witness Your suffering and listen to Your last words of love.
- C** **As we approach Calvary let us become mindful of our sins and of our willful rebellion against Your holy commandments.**
- P** Eternal God, we confess that we have turned away from You in our thinking, speaking and doing.
- C** **We have lived for ourselves and have refused to bear the burdens of others.**
- P** We can only say, “For the sake of Jesus, God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

✙ A moment of silent reflection ✙

P By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P O God, make your face shine upon us.

All: Only then will we be saved!

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING In the Cross of Christ I Glory *LSB 427 st. 4*

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

ⴒ Service of the Word ⴒ

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 12:1–13

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

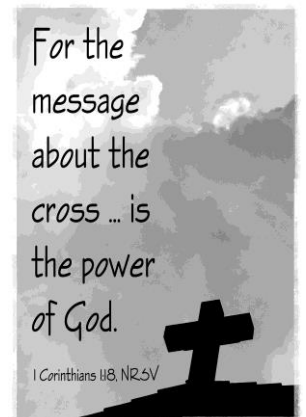
EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–23

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,



L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

(The Gospel Reading will be shared later in our Tenebrae Service)

1. 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. 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. 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. 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!



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

SERMON

“Agnus Dei” (Exodus 12:1–13)

Rev. Gerald R. Menk

OFFERING

For those worshipping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6> You may also drop off your offering at the church office Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 AM – Noon.



For those worshipping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.

OFFERING HYMN (1:00 PM) We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died
LSB 429 sts. 1–3, 6 (Sung to *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - *LSB 426*)

1. We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the cross.
The sinner's hope let all deride;
For this we count the world but loss.
2. Inscribed upon the cross we see
In shining letters, "God is love."
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above.
3. The cross! It takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.
6. To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.



Text (sts. 1–3): Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855; (st. 6): Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861
Text: Public domain

SPECIAL MUSIC (7:00pm) Deep Were His Wounds Vocal Choir

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You gather us together at the foot of Your Son's cross that we may join with the eyewitnesses of His death and behold His all-sufficient sacrifice for our redemption.
- C** **Help us to know the real life that comes to us because of the wonderful exchange Jesus offered to us at the cross.**
- P** Lead us to see that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary.
- C** **He was forsaken by You, dear Father, so that we might never be forsaken. He died so that we may live.**
- P** Lord Jesus, grant on this Friday we call "good" that the promises of Your Word may be received by us all with a living faith.
- C** **Encourage our hearts and minds as we trust that all You accomplished at Calvary was done for our salvation.**
- P** Holy Spirit, You unite us by Baptism to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Guide us by Your grace to know the power of sharing in His death so that, with Him, we may partake in His resurrection.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever. Amen.**

EXPLANATION OF TENEBRAE

The word “Tenebrae” is the Latin term for “darkness.” The purpose of this is to impress upon us the terrible reality of sin – the sin which caused our Savior to die for us.

T THE TENEBRAE SERVICE T

HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
With your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
Of your suffering, pain, and death that I may not perish.

The Word of Forgiveness

Luke 23:33–38

³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

*The Word of Promise***Luke 23:39–43**

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

The Word of Love

John 19:25–27

²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 Who, thy-self for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
 Through thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, ah! thou, has taken on thee bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
 Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God!
 Thus didst thou my soul deliver from the bonds of sin forever.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround thee, treating thee with shameful scorn
 And with piercing thorns they crowned thee.
 All disgrace thou, Lord, has borne,
 That as thine thou mightest own me and with heav'nly glory crown me.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

The Word of Forsakenness

Mark 15:25–35

²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.”

THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner's deep distress.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.

Text: Public domain

The Word of Suffering**John 19:28–29**

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A 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.

THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, ‘tis he, ‘tis he!
‘Tis the long expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him, none would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

The Word of Victory

John 19:30

³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

1. Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

2. Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

3. Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

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*The Word of Trust***Luke 23:44–47**

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: Public domain

CLOSING PRAYER

P Gracious Jesus, Our Lord and our God, at this hour You bore our sins in Your body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and, through Your grace, eternal glory in the life to come, where, with the Father and Holy Spirit, You live and reign, God forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken together in a whisper)*

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 TOMB

The Christ candle is taken out of the sanctuary just as our Lord's body was taken away and placed in a grave provided by Joseph of Arimathea.

THE CLOSING OF THE GOSPEL BOOK

The sound of a loud noise signifies that with the sealed tomb, the meaning of the cross is fulfilled, the sacrifice is complete, and the Scriptures are fulfilled.

THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Christ candle is returned to the altar to remind us that the death of Christ is NOT the end of His ministry and is symbolic of the eternal light of His love for us.

THE DEPARTURE

After the Christ candle returns to the altar and a time of silent prayer and meditation, the congregation leaves the sanctuary and the building silently contemplating the death of Christ and looking forward to resurrection victory.

Silent Prayer: The Lamb, the Lamb, he takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, he gives me his own righteousness. Thanks be to God! Amen.



EASTER WORSHIP

Sunday at 7:15am (Cross Monument)

9:00am & 10:30am (Church/Online)

Please join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord

