



Good Friday March 29, 2024

+ **A Service of Meditation and Darkness** +

Northdale Lutheran Church

Northdale Christian Academy

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WELCOME TO NORTHDALE LUTHERAN!

In the name of Christ, we welcome you this evening! We are glad you could join us in praising our Savior God. We pray that worshipping together strengthens and uplifts you. Parents, if you would need to use the cry / nursing room, please feel free to do so.

May God bless your worship!

ABOUT TONIGHT'S SERVICE

On Good Friday the Church remembers the crucifixion of her Lord. In this evening's service entitled, "**The 7 Words From The Cross!**" our attention will be drawn to the meaning and significance of the events of Good Friday by means of a series of meditations.

Traditionally this day has been celebrated with a Tenebrae service. Tenebrae means "darkness." Our service tonight, while solemn, is not a message of gloom, but a service of adoration of the Son of God as he offers up his life on the altar of the cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

The Tenebrae Service makes use of "**antiphons.**" An antiphon is a responsive reading between the worship leader and the congregation. Most antiphons are based on **Messianic Psalms** (psalms which speak of the coming of the Messiah, or Savior). These psalms were written many centuries before Christ, yet accurately prophesied Christ's suffering and death. We find joy in seeing these prophecies come true. After the antiphons, there is always **a moment of silence for meditation.** You are encouraged to use this brief period of time to reflect on the lesson that was just read, or to thank God in personal prayer for your sure salvation.

The light of the **Tenebrae Candles** represents the light of Jesus' life. The loss of light symbolizes the ebbing of Jesus' life and the darkness which surrounded the cross at Calvary from noon until 3:00 pm.

****** PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no postlude music at the end of the service, no ushering out, and no greeting at the door. After the service concludes, please leave the building in complete silence. **Please DO NOT GREET ONE ANOTHER OR REMAIN OUTSIDE TO VISIT.** We leave quietly to return to our homes reflecting on that which our Lord did for us on this day.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: O Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, look with mercy on me for whom you were betrayed, given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffered death upon the cross. Send your Holy Spirit to keep me repentant and to place all my sins on you, knowing that through your life, death and resurrection, you have given me eternal life. Keep me always faithful to you, my only Savior. Amen.



“The 7 Words From The Cross!”

+ ORDER OF SERVICE +

P: “No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.” (John 3:13-21)

Lighting of the Tenebrae Candles Jesus I Will Ponder Now, CW #420 vs 1,5

**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 suff’ring, pain, and death, that I may not perish.**

**If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.**

**Help me see forgiveness won By your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!**

Our Evening Confession

P: O Jesus, we are reminded that you suffered not for your guilt, but for ours; not for your sins, but for our sins. So we humbly bow before you and say,

C: I am sorry, Lord.

P: For being quick to hoard, for being slow to share, for being quick in temper and slow to compassion, we come to you and say,

C: I am sorry, Lord, for what I have done.

P: For speaking words which are angry or hurtful, for failing to speak words of encouragement, we come to you and say,

C: I am sorry, Lord, for what I have said.

P: For harboring resentment in our hearts, for being selfish and doubt-filled, for assuming the worst rather than putting the best construction on all things, we come to you and say,

C: I am sorry, Lord, for what I have thought. For all that we have thought, spoken, and done is against you, O Lord. We deserve only to be thrown from your presence and suffer an eternity in hell. Even with a thousand life spans, we could never make amends for the wrongs we have done. Therefore, we simply bow ourselves before your throne and cry out for your mercy.

Announcement of our Forgiveness

P: The Bible assures us: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). Therefore, by the command and the atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

“Father Forgive Them”

1st Passion Reading Installment

Isaiah 53:6,7,12

P: We all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way;

C: **And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

P: He was oppressed and afflicted, Yet he did not open his mouth;

C: **He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.**

P: He poured out his life unto death, and he was numbered with the transgressors.

C: **For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

O Dearest Jesus, *CW #432 vs 1,3,4*

**O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession—
What dark transgression?**

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?

**It is my sins for which you, Lord must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit.**

This I do merit

**What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt his servants owe him,
Who would not know him.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIRST CANDLE

Silence for Meditation

“Today, You Will Be With Me”

2nd Passion Reading Installment

Psalm 22:6-8

P: I am a worm and not a man,

C: **Scorned by men and despised by the people.**

P: All who see me mock me;

C: **They hurl insults, shaking their heads:**

P: “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

C: **Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus, *CW #710*

**Beneath the cross of Jesus, I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy, that calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me, hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus, my unworthy soul is won.**

**Beneath the cross of Jesus, his family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams, now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor, the ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus, see the children called by God.**

**Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps, where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us, to be His perfect bride;
Beneath the cross of Jesus, we will gladly live our lives.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SECOND CANDLE

Silence for Meditation

“Mother, Here Is Your Son”

3rd Passion Reading Installment

Isaiah 53:2-3

P: He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

C: And like a root out of dry ground.

P: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

C: Nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

P: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows,

C: And familiar with suffering.

P: Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised,

C: And we esteemed him not.

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross, *CW #407 vs 1,3,4*

**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**

**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?**

**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.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

Silence for Meditation

“My God, My God”

4th Passion Reading Installment

Psalm 22:1-2

P: My God, my God, Why have you forsaken me?

C: Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

P: O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

C: By night, and am not silent.

Isaiah 53:4-5

P: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

C: Yet we considered him stricken by God, Smitten by him, and afflicted.

P: But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;

C: The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted, *CW #430 vs 1,3*

**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.**

**If you think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see 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.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE

Silence for Meditation

“I Am Thirsty”

5th Passion Reading Installment

Psalm 22:14-16

P: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

C: My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

P: My strength was dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.

C: You lay me in the dust of death.

P: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,

C: They have pierced my hands and my feet.

P: I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

C: They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed, *CW #410 vs 1,2,5*

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sov'reign die?

Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree?

Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;

Here, Lord, I give myself away—'Tis all that I can do.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIFTH CANDLE

Silence for Meditation

THANKOFFERING

We offer our gifts as a token of our gratitude to the Lamb of God.

Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting "Give" to (813) 652-0408. 2). You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>. You can certainly ask if you have any questions.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C: Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer.

P: Forgive my open sins and my secret sins, which caused you to send your own Son to this sinful world to live perfectly under your holy law in my place – the same law that I have constantly broken.

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive my sins.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, forgive the sins I know and the sins I do not know, which caused you to suffer mockery and scorn at the hands of sinful men.

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive my sins.

P: Forgive the sins I did to please myself and the sins I did to please others, which caused you to go in humility and pain to the cross, to suffer the death I deserved to die!

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive my sins.

P: Holy Spirit and Lord, forgive every sin that shows how much of a wretched, sinful human being I am, that caused the Son of God himself to stand under God's burning wrath and suffer hell in my place.

C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive my sins.

ALL: Dear Savior Jesus Christ, for the sake of your own suffering and death, in your mercy forgive my sins, assure me of my forgiveness in your Word and Sacraments, and lead me to live a life that reflects the love you have shown to me. Amen.

“It is Finished!”

6th Passion Reading Installment

Psalm 22:27-28, 30-31

P: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,

C: And all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

P: For dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

C: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD.

P: They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn -

C: For he has done it.

The Tree of Life, *CW #574*

**The tree of life with ev'ry good, in Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet, God let the man and women eat.**

**Yet in this garden also grew, another tree, of which they knew;
It's lovely limbs with fruit adorned, against whose eating God had warned.**

**The stillness of that sacred grove, was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile, and Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath, of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed, within the world so newly made.**

**What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's seed, the One to fill our greatest need
For on a tree uplifted high, His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread, to crush the ancient serpent's head!**

**Now from that tree of Jesus' shame, flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe, salvation's living fruit receive.
And of its fruit so pure and sweet, the Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood, the tree of life with ev'ry good.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SIXTH CANDLE

Silence for Meditation

“Father, Into Your Hands”

7th Passion Reading Installment

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SEVENTH CANDLE

Silence for Meditation

THE BURIAL READING (*Taken From The Four Gospels*)

Anthem “The Burial”

THE CLOSING OF THE TOMB

THE CLOSING BENEDICTION

As we make our way home this evening, it is important that we remember what we have witnessed. While it is gruesome, **the cross of Christ is beautiful to the Christian.** For there we see Jesus, God the Son, suffer the pains of hell so that we never have to. We see him die so that we might live. That is why even though this is a solemn Friday, a serious Friday, a somber Friday it is still GOOD FRIDAY!

Easter Festival Worship at 8:30am & 10:30am

**"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins..... *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!*"
(I Corinthians 15:18,20)**