

THE DARKNESS DEEPENS



yet

TEARS HAVE NO BITTERNESS

A Service for Good Friday  
April 2, 2021

Grace Lutheran Church  
Yorba Linda, California



***Grace Lutheran Church***  
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Pastor Phillip Sievert

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**TONIGHT'S SERVICE**

We worship tonight using the custom of *tenebrae*, which is Latin for “darkness.” This is not a funeral service for Jesus, but a time of reflection, intercession, adoration of the Lamb of God, and quiet meditation. So as the sun sets, the lights are dimmed, and the candles are snuffed out, we think of Christ’s life ebbing away. Then finally a remaining candle, a symbol of the Lord himself, is carried out of the chancel. This final candle is not snuffed out, for even on Good Friday, our worship honors a *living* Christ. The service is closed by a loud noise called the *strepitus*, that foreshadows Christ rending his tomb in triumph at his resurrection. This candle is returned to remind us that tonight is NOT the end.

The mood of the service is most solemn, encouraging the worshipers to reflect deeply upon their own life in the light of the Passion of our Lord. No closing blessing is pronounced and the congregation disperses into the night, leaving the darkened church in silence, yet remembering the Light which lingers and casts hope through the gloom of Good Friday – where THE DARKNESS DEEPENS – but TEARS HAVE NO BITTERNESS.

## 2. The Crucifixion Psalm – Psalm 22

- L. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?  
C. **O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.**  
L. O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

♪ **Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!**

- L. In you our fathers put their trust;  
C. **They trusted and you delivered them.**john  
L. They cried to you and were saved;  
C. **In you they trusted and were not disappointed.**  
L. But I am a worm and not a man,  
C. **Scorned by men and despised by the people.**  
L. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:  
C. **"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."**  
L. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

♪ **Swift to its close ebbs, out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me!**

- L. Many bulls surround me;  
C. **Strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions tearing their prey, open their mouths wide against me.**  
L. I am poured out like water,  
C. **All my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.**

L. O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

**♪ I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!**

### 3. The Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to Him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### 4. An Account of Good Friday according to a harmony of the Holy Gospel

*The Carrying with responses from Isaiah 53*

L. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

**C. Yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.**

L. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

**C. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;**

L. And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

*The first candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for meditation*

### 5. The Message Not Broken But Pierced (John 19:31-35)



**L:** Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has exalted him to the highest place and given him the name that is above every name.

**The Lord's Prayer** *is spoken softly when the leader says, "Let us pray."*

**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 be seated following the prayer*

**6. HYMN of the Service: "Rest, O Christ, From All Your Labor" (CW 718)**

- 1 Rest, O Christ, from all your labor; Sleep within your borrowed tomb.  
Foes have crucified and bound you Fast within death's narrow room.  
Pilate's guards stand watching, waiting Where they rolled the sealing stone.**

All unseen another watches: God will not forsake his own.

- 2 Peace at last from all your anguish, Wounds in hand and feet and side.  
Enemies no longer mock you, Scourged, abandoned, crucified.  
Faithful women gather spices, Weep for you whom sin has slain.  
Though they mourn, the God who guards you Will not let your death be vain.
  
- 3 Help us keep this solemn Sabbath As we wait for Easter dawn.  
Earth's dark night of sin is passing; Death's long reign will soon be gone.  
Christ, in whom the new creation Rises brighter than the sun:  
May we, as we watch for morning, Trust the vict'ry you have won.
  
- 4 As through parting Red Sea waters Israel marched to liberty,  
So we pass through baptism's water, Washed by grace, from sin set free.  
Jesus, risen, living, reigning Now and through eternity:  
Grant that, through your life undying, We may live victoriously.



## 7. The Crucifixion Psalm concludes... Psalm 22

- L. I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.
- C. **You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or**

**disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him.**

L. But he has listened to his cry for help.

**♪ Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in thy wings,  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea;  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

- L. 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,**  
L. For dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

**♪ Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

- L. All who go down to the dust will kneel before him--  
**C. Those who cannot keep themselves alive.**  
L. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.  
**C. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn-- for he has done it!**

**♪ I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**

*The Christ Candle is carried out*

*The Christ candle is returned to burn as a  
reminder of Christ's victory.*