

Zion Lutheran Church The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
413 Avenue D East, Bismarck, North Dakota
Website: zionbismarck.org
Email: zionlcmsbis@gmail.com
(701) 223-8286
Find us on Facebook, search: *Zion Lutheran Church*
The Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. – Senior Pastor
Ben Ramthun - Vicar
Kristin Nistler – Director of Family Ministry

Liturgist: Vicar Ramthun
Sermon: Pastor Marcis
Organist: Kathy Rooke

Good Friday

April 2, 2021 – 6pm & 7:30 PM

+ *The Order of Tenebrae* +

Tonight's service of darkness, also known as "Tenebrae" (a Latin word meaning darkness or shadows), is a Holy Week devotion dating back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. It is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. Tonight's service is divided into seven parts, each highlighting Christ's last seven words from the cross. The words for tonight's service come from the Psalms, Isaiah, the Gospel of Matthew, and ancient liturgical texts. Near the conclusion of the service, the congregation will recite the Lord's Prayer. Then, after the Good Friday prayer, the Christ candle will be removed, symbolizing our Lord's death and burial. The "strepitus" is heard, a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb. The Christ candle is returned to its place in anticipation of our Lord's resurrection. At the completion of the service, please leave silently, maintaining the spirit of worship befitting this solemn occasion.

Enter in Silence

Lighting of the Candles

Opening Hymn

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" *LSB* #436 vs 1-3

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Since we are assembled here to hear God's Word, let us think of our own unworthiness, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and realize also that by our own strength we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Therefore, we take refuge in his infinite mercy, seeking and imploring his grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and say: God be merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

(Silence for a moment)

We confess together:

People: **May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on his name he gives power to become the children of God and has promised them his Holy Spirit He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

People: **Amen.**

Introit

Pastor: O Lord, be not far off;

People: O my strength, come quickly to help me.

Pastor: My god, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

Pastor: In you our fathers put their trust;

People: They trusted and delivered them.

Pastor: But I am a worm and not a man,

People: Scorned by men and despised by the people.

Pastor: Yet you brought me out of the womb;

People: You made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

Pastor: From birth I was cast upon you;

People: From my mother's womb you have been my God.

Pastor: Do not be far from me,

People: For trouble is near and there is no one to help

Pastor: O Lord, be not far off;

People: O my strength, come quickly to help me. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The Procession of the Cross

Pastor: O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

People: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

People: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

People: Grant us peace. Amen.

(When the cross is placed in its stand, there is a time of silence.)

(When the Bells begin, you are invited to come forward and pound your nail into the cross.)

Bells of Zion

"Were You There?"

Hymn

"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken" LSB 439

Offering

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, graciously behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the Cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Meditations: The Seven Last Words

+ The First Word +

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:32-38

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” *LSB #447 vs 1-3*

(The FIRST CANDLE is extinguished)

+ The Second Word +

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” *LSB #447 vs 4-6*

(The SECOND CANDLE is extinguished)

+ The Third Word +

Scripture Reading

John 19:23-27

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” *LSB #447 vs 7-9*

(The THIRD CANDLE is extinguished)

+ The Fourth Word +

Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:45-49

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” *LSB #447 vs 10-12*

(The FOURTH CANDLE is extinguished)

+ The Fifth Word+

Scripture Reading

Ps. 69:19-21; John 19:28,29

You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you. Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst. Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" *LSB #447* vs 13-15

(The FIFTH CANDLE is extinguished)

+ The Sixth Word +

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53:1-12; John 19:30

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 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. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; 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. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn

"Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" *LSB #447* vs 16-18

(The SIXTH CANDLE is extinguished)

+ The Seventh Word +

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:44-49

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” *LSB #447 vs 19-21*

(The SEVENTH CANDLE is extinguished)

Silent Meditation

(The CHRIST CANDLE is removed from the Sanctuary)

The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

Prayer

The Strepitus Is Heard

Silent Prayer

(The CHRIST CANDLE is returned.)

Silent Recession

+ Soli Deo Gloria! +

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