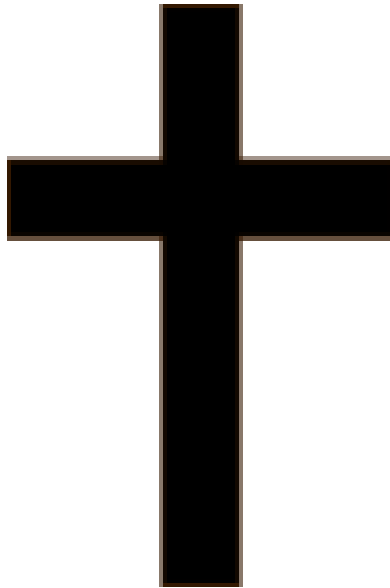


GOOD FRIDAY- April 15, 2022

Beginning of the Three Days of Holy Week in the Christian Church

7:00 PM- Service of Holy Communion

Shared by: Evangelical Lutheran, Durham- Bridge Pastor James Heckman



Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness

Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness”) was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. In recent centuries, this monastic liturgy—despite its early morning light imagery—was transitioned to Friday evening in Holy Week. In the monastic practice, it was a service of prayers and readings from scripture. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.

In the service tonight, the extinguishing of candles has been placed within the reading of the Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross. With this form, seven candles are used. Following each section, one candle is extinguished.

Rather than “mourning” the dying or dead Jesus on Good Friday, the cross is acclaimed as the sign of the world’s redemption. The procession of the cross and adoration of the crucified Christ become the primary symbolic action of this day. We offer honor and reverence to the one who, lifted up from the earth, draws all people to himself. This service does not end in darkness and sadness, as if the assembly were reenacting the death of Christ. Rather, the liturgy ends with Christ exalted on the cross, an image from John’s gospel.

The procession of the cross has an important connection to the procession of the paschal candle in the Easter Vigil. More importantly, all three days celebrate the mystery of Jesus’ dying and rising. We do not wait until Easter Sunday to see what will happen. Already on Good Friday, the church celebrates the Lord’s death and resurrection as the central event of our salvation.

Gathering

All gather in silence. The assembly stands when the minister stand.

***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Reflection

Hymn: “Christ, The Life of All the Living” ELW 339

The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross

The First Word: “Father, Forgive them. . .”

Luke 23:32-38

Reflection

Prayer on the First Word from the Cross

Let us pray . . . Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, too, may be included in that prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.

First candle is extinguished.

Hymn: Ah, Holy Jesus” ELW 349 vrs 1+2

The Second Word: “Today you will be with me in Paradise”

Luke 23:39-43

Reflection

Prayer on the Second Word from the Cross

O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Second candle is extinguished.

Hymn: Lord Jesus, Think on Me ELW 599 vrs. 1+2

The Third Word: “Women, here is your son. Here is your mother”

John 19:25b-27

Reflection

Prayer on the Third Word from the Cross

O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your

example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this our prayer for your mercy's sake. Amen.

Third candle is extinguished.

Hymn: Beneath the Cross of Jesus ELW 338

The Fourth Word: “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:45-49
Reflection

Prayer on the Fourth Word from the Cross

Almighty God, who forsook your Son upon the cross showing the world your judgment upon human sin and guilt, grant us, upon hearing his cry, the grace to know and believe that we will never be forsaken, that he is present with us even to the end of the age: for the sake of Jesus Christ who bore our sins on the cross. Amen.

Fourth candle is extinguished.

Hymn: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed ELW 337 vs 1,2+4

The Fifth Word: “I thirst” John 19:28-29

Reflection

Prayer on the Fifth Word from the Cross

O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.

Fifth candle is extinguished.

Hymn: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ELW 803 vs. 1+3

The Sixth Word: “It is finished” John 19:30

Reflection

Prayer on the Sixth Word from the Cross

O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Sixth candle is extinguished.

Hymn: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW #332

The Seventh Word: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" Luke23:44-49
Reflection

Prayer on the Seventh Word from the Cross

Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. Amen.

Seventh candle is extinguished.

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" ELW #351 vrs 1 & 4

***John 19:31-42**

Christ Candle is extinguished

Hymn: "Were you there" ELW# 353

Bidding Prayer

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The assembly kneels or sits. Silence for prayer follows each bid.

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for Elizabeth and Patricia our bishops, for James our pastor, for and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health

and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

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.

***Procession of the Cross**

The cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly.

The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward reading the versicle three times (at the back of the church, in the middle of the nave and once the cross is put in place in the Chancel.

Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

***Hymns: What wondrous love is this ELW# 666**

After a brief silence, the minister continues.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

***Hymns: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW# 335**

All depart in silence.

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