**Zion Lutheran Church, Woodland, Michigan**

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

**April 7, 2023**

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**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Come, let us gather again in the shadow  
of the Cross of Christ.  
We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence  
of Love’s ultimate sacrifice.  
Who would have guessed that the height and depth,  
the length and width of God’s love might look like this:  
a forsaken savior on a cross?  
Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost  
amid the world’s distractions and responsibilities.  
Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.  
Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ  
and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.  
Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why  
this Friday is called “Good.”  
Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven,  
that we might have the faith, hope, and love,  
witnessed in Christ’s sacrifice for our salvation.**

**OPENING HYMN**



**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

**MEDITATION Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**SPECIAL MUSIC “Softly and Tenderly” Dan & Cindy Utterback**

# **Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin**

**Reader*:***

66When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. 67They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; 68and if I question you, you will not answer. 69But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." 70All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." 71Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

*(Luke 22: 66-71*)

***(Extinguish candle)***

# **Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter**

**Reader*:*** 69Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." 70But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." 71When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." 73After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." 74Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. 75Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

. *(Matthew 26: 69-75*)

***(Extinguish candle)***

**HYMN**



# **Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate**

**Reader***:* 1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." 3Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.  
15So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

*(Mark 15: 1-5, 15*)

***(Extinguish candle)***

# **Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns**

**Reader**: 1Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. 3They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

*(John 19: 1-3*)

***(Extinguish candle)***

# **Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross**

**Reader*:*** 6When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." 15They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." 16Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; 17and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

*(John 19: 6, 15-17*)

***(Extinguish candle)***



# **Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross**

**Reader*:*** 21They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

. *(Mark 15: 21*)

***(Extinguish candle)***

# **Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

**Reader*:*** 27A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. 28But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

*(Luke 23: 27-31*)

***(Extinguish candle)***

# **Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified**

# **Reader:** 33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[ 34Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

*(Luke 23: 33-34*)

***(Extinguish candle)***



# **Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief**

**Reader***:* 39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? 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 have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

*(Luke 23: 39-43*)

***(Extinguish candle)***

**HYMN**

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# **Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple**

**Reader*:*** . 25And that is what the soldiers did.  
Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19: 25-26)

***(Extinguish candle)***

# **Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross**

**Reader***:* 44It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

*(Luke 23: 44-46*)

***(Extinguish candle)***



# **Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb**

**Reader:** 57When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. 58He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth 60and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

*(Matthew 27: 57-60*)

***(Christ Candle is extinguished and removed.***

***(A loud noise will be heard symbolizing the closing of the tomb.)***

**HYMN**

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**All leave in silence**.

***Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning “shadows”. It is the name given to the ancient prayer hours of Matins and Lauds used on the last three days of Holy Week. Twelve candles are arranged on the altar. The Christ candle is placed in front. All candles are lighted before the service begins.***

***One by one, the candles are extinguished until, as the service progresses only one is left burning. After the dramatic Reading of the Passion of Jesus Christ, the Christ Candle is carried from the sanctuary.***

**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Buffy Meyers**

**Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**Acolyte: Emil Meyers**