

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

Good Friday

April 2, 2021

If you wish, you may prepare seven candles to be lit before this service and to be extinguished sequentially during the reading of the seven last words of Jesus from the cross.

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now - 5

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

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“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John the Baptist spoke this prophetic phrase at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Today we see these words fulfilled, as we meditate on the death of the Son of God on our behalf. In His death, we have life.

Good Friday is the most solemn of days in the Church Year. On Good Friday Jesus was on the cross from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. From Noon until 3 p.m. there was darkness. A Tenebrae (Service of Darkness) service recalls the darkness that accompanied the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain, Lutheran Service Book 435; Lutheran Worship 96; The Lutheran Hymnal 149



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ From the Gospel of John

John 18

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Jesus Before the High Priest

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Introit Ps. 38:1-4, 18, 22; *antiphon:* Is. 53:5

L He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

C O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath!

L For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.

C There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

L For my iniquities have gone over my head;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

C I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.

L Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

C He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ From the Gospel of John

Peter Denies Jesus

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter Denies Jesus Again

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect

L Let us pray: 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.

C Amen.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ From the Gospel of John

Jesus Before Pilate

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰They

answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” ³¹Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

My Kingdom Is Not of This World

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

Psalm 22:1-11

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

²**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

⁵To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶**But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸**“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”**

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.

¹⁰**On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.**

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

and there is none to help.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ From the Gospel of John

John 19

Jesus Delivered to Be Crucified

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” ⁷The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” ¹¹Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Psalm 22:14–19

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

¹⁷I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ From the Gospel of John

The Crucifixion

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²²Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ From the Gospel of John

The Death of Jesus

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus’ Side Is Pierced

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

☐ 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.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ From the Gospel of John

Jesus Is Buried

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Devotional Thoughts

Tetelestai is a single Greek word translated as a three-word sentence in English, “It is finished” (John 19:30). Some Bible translations use “It is completed.” *Tetelestai* does not have the sense of “I’m glad that this is over.” Rather, imagine a great painter placing the last stroke of the brush on a masterpiece. The work of art can get no better. No fewer strokes would be enough. He steps back and declares, “It is finished!”

This is the sense of Jesus’ loud exclamation from the cross. Everything that He came to accomplish for the forgiveness of sins is complete. Nothing more needs to be added. Nothing more can be added. The books are closed. It is finished. You and I are saved from sin, death, and the devil. Life eternal is ours!

Over the years I’ve heard people say things such as, “I hope I’m good enough to go to heaven” or “I’m not bad enough to go to hell.” What sad and depressing thoughts these are! They expose a belief that there is something that you and I need to add to our salvation. They express the idea that Jesus’ death on the cross was only a down-payment for our debt of sin and the remaining payments must be made by our own personal acts of righteousness.

This way of thinking can only lead to the smugness of the Pharisees or the despair of hopelessness. It is ultimately contrary to Scripture. If we expect that our own righteousness will add to our salvation, we need to

remember Isaiah 64:6, “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags!” None of us can dare to believe that we have added to Jesus’ righteousness. Our personal holiness is nothing more than filthy. That is why we need a savior.

In providing that savior, God did not leave the job half done, requiring each individual Christian to finish the work. No, it is finished!

Some believe that *Tetelestai* is the word Martin Luther was thinking of when he wrote his most well-known hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is our God.” Stanza three ends with this phrase, “One little word can fell him.”

In his early years, Luther never could believe that he was good enough to go to heaven. He was acutely aware of all of his shortcomings. He couldn’t believe that a righteous and holy God would ever accept him into eternity. Then his eyes were opened to the fact that the righteousness required by God is provided by God in Christ. We receive it by faith. Our sins are removed and placed upon Jesus. He paid for them on the cross and then declared, “It is finished,” “Salvation is completed!”

Ever after, when Satan would attack him with the thought of his unworthiness, Luther would remember this word of Jesus, “*Tetelestai!*”—“It is finished. Consider “A Mighty Fortress” stanza three with this in mind.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpower us.
This world’s prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He’s judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

May God grant to you peace and comfort from the words of Jesus. May you rest secure in His loving arms knowing that your salvation was completed by Him on the cross.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted, Lutheran Service Book 451; Lutheran Worship 116; The Lutheran Hymnal 153



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the

tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the

soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

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+ THE WORDS FROM THE CROSS +

+ THE FIRST WORD +

- [L]** Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Prince of Peace. When you were mocked, you did not respond with harsh words.
- [C]** When you were tormented, you did not react in anger.
- [L]** When you were nailed to the cross, you prayed forgiveness for those who caused you to suffer.
- [C]** Give to us the virtues of gentleness, patience, and a forgiving spirit, that we may repay evil with good.
- [L]** Teach us to love our enemies, and as children of the heavenly Father, to live in peace with all people.
- [C]** Amen.

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

(The first candle is extinguished.)

+ THE SECOND WORD +

- [L]** Lord Jesus Christ, in your infinite mercy you heard the plea of the dying thief on the cross next to you.
- [C]** We pray that you would open our hearts in mercy to welcome those who turn to you, and rejoice in their salvation.
- [L]** When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with you in Paradise.
- [C]** Amen.

I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.

(The second candle is extinguished.)

+ THE THIRD WORD +

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, while you suffered the agony of the cross, your thoughts turned to the welfare of others. Your concern was for your mother in her sorrow.
- C** **We pray that you would regard with pity all parents who mourn the death of their children, and all parents who sorrow because their children have gotten into trouble or forsaken their faith.**
- L** By the power of your healing, we pray that parents and children may know peace, and that relationships may be restored.
- C** Amen.

Dear Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother.

(The third candle is extinguished.)

+ THE FOURTH WORD +

- L** Lord God, Father of all people and Creator of all that exists, you hold all people in your power.
- C** **We pray that you would not forsake the world which your Son died to redeem.**
- L** Even though we still see the influence of sin and evil all around us,
- C** **assure us of your continued presence in our midst.**
- L** Help us to know your love in our lives, so we can show your presence to others.
- C** Amen.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

+ THE FIFTH WORD +

- L** Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place.
- C** **We thirst for the healing that only you can provide.**
- L** When we find ourselves suffering, give us peace and patience to endure the pain that comes our way.
- C** **Bring to our minds all that you endured for us.**
- L** Give us the strength to bear our burdens by the grace of your holy example.
- C** Amen.

I am thirsty.

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

+ THE SIXTH WORD +

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to you by your Father.
- C** **We pray that you would complete in us also, everything that you intend for us.**
- L** So that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for his glory.
- C** Amen.

It is finished.

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

+ THE SEVENTH WORD +

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, as you gave your life on the cross in our place, you commended your spirit into the loving hands of your heavenly Father.
- C** **Give us the grace to trust in you for all things.**
- L** When our last hour comes, grant us peace, that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father.
- C** **Amen.**

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

(After the last candle is extinguished, a book may be closed loudly or other loud sound produced to indicate the total completion of Christ's mission. You may then choose to observe a moment of silence.)

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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