

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL

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Good Friday / Tenebrae Worship

“The Warrior is Abandoned”

April 9, 2020

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior’s sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service called Tenebrae, during the last days of Holy Week.

The name Tenebrae means “Darkness” or “Shadows.”

In this adaptation of the medieval Tenebrae, we will be witnesses to the deepest sorrow of our Savior. Step after relentless step, Jesus walks the Way of Sorrows. One after another, all abandon Him until ultimately He stands in the God-forsakenness of hell itself.

The extinguishing of the candles and growing darkness of the church, symbolizes the deepening sorrow. When the Lord breathes His last, the Christ Candle is removed, symbolizing our Lord's death and burial. The "strepitus" is heard, a harsh noise indicating the closing of the tomb. Then the Christ Candle is relit in anticipation of the Lord's resurrection.

The day our Lord died is the most solemn day of the church year. Tonight we remember: God laid on Him "the iniquity of us all." The service is solemn, reverent, and filled with devotion. The worshipers enter the church in silence, meditating on the great sacrifice the Savior made.

INVOCATION

Sermon Text: Matthew 27:45-50

⁴⁵From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”).

⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave Him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save Him.”

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.

Sermon Theme: The Greatest Battle Ever Fought

Prayer

Hymn: CW 139 vs. 1, 6, 7 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

**Jesus, in Your dying woes, Even while Your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus!**

**Jesus, all our ransom paid, All Your Father’s will obeyed,
By Your suff’rings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus!**

**Jesus, all Your labor vast, All Your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Introduction

P: God did not spare His own Son.

C: **But gave Him up for us all.** (Romans 8:32)

Part One: The Warrior Abandoned in His Deepest Need

The Scripture Lesson Matthew 26:36-45

Summary

P: I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. (Isaiah 63:3)

C: **I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me.**

Hymn: CW 113 “Upon the Cross Extended”

**I caused Your grief and sighing
By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered
With which Your soul is cumbered,
The sorrows raised by wicked hands.**

Part Two: The Warrior Abandoned by a Faithless Friend

The Scripture Lesson Matthew 26:47-50

Summary

Hymn: CW 138 vs. 1,2,5 “Oh, Perfect Life of Love”

**Oh, perfect life of love! All, all is finished now,
All that He left His throne above To do for us below.**

**No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one, The Scriptures have fulfilled.**

**In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice, You died to make me free!**

P: 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. He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken. (Isaiah 53:7,8)

C: 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. (Isaiah 53:12)

Part Three: The Warrior Abandoned by His Church

The Scripture Lesson Matthew 26:62-68

Summary

Hymn: CW 104 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

**Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, pain or loss;
Learn of Him to bear the cross.**

P: Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. (1 Peter 2:21)

C: “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.” When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. (1 Peter 2:22,23)

Part Four: The Warrior Abandoned by His Nation

The Scripture Lesson Mark 15:1-14

Summary

Hymn: CW 127 “Stricken, Smitten & Afflicted”

**Tell me, as you hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress,
Many hands were raised to wound Him
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stoke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.**

**If you think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here you see its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the Sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

P: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you,
C: **How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!** (Luke 13:34)

Part Five: The Warrior Abandoned by the World

The Scripture Lesson Matthew 27:11-14, 24-26

Summary

The Scripture Lesson Luke 23:26,32,33

Hymn: CW 105 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

**O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns Your only crown.
O sacred Head, no glory,
Now from Your face does shine;
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call You mine.**

**Men mock and taunt and jeer You,
They smite Your countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear You
And flee before Your glance.
How pale You are with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
Your eyes with pain now languish
That once were bright as morn!**

P: 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. (Ps 22:15)

C: **But You, O LORD, be not far off. O my Strength, come quickly to help me.** (Psalm 22:19)

Part Six: The Warrior Abandoned by His God

Summary

The Scripture Lesson Matthew 27:45,46

Silent Meditation on Christ's Tremendous Sacrifice

Hymn: CW 117 "O Dearest Jesus"

**O dearest Jesus, what law have You broken
That such sharp sentence should on You be spoken?
Of what great crime have You to make confession—
What dark transgression?**

**Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which You, Lord, must languish,
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that You inherit,
This I do merit.**

Lord's Prayer (*whispered*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: CW 119 "Were You There"

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?**

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Part Seven: The Warrior's Burial

The Scripture Lesson Luke 23:50-56

P: They took Him down from the cross, then. Gently and tenderly Joseph and Nicodemus carried Him to the unused tomb. Sadness and gloom filled their being. He whom they loved was dead. The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead."

C: "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. (Matthew 27:62-66)

(The Christ candle is removed from the chancel.)

Strepitus *(The harsh noise, representing the rolling of the stone in front of the tomb.)*

Hymn: CWS 718 vs. 1-3 "Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor"

**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.**

**Peace at last from all Your anguish
Wounds in hands 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.**

**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.**

Summary

P: My body also will rest secure, (Psalm 16:9)

C: **Because You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.** (Psalm 16:10)

Closing Prayer

(The Christ candle is brought back into the chancel and placed on the altar.)

Hymn: CW 219 "Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See"

**Lord, when Your glory I shall see
And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before Your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride I shall be brought
To stand in joy beside You.**

The minister exits the chancel.

