He was wounded for our transgressions.

Isaiah 53:5
The people of the Kingdom of God at Bethany welcome you.

**MISSION:*** Living God’s Word through Caring, Sharing and Teaching

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THE NAILS OF LENT: A SERVICE OF DARKNESS

AS WE GATHER

Today’s service of darkness, also known as Tenebrae (the name means “darkness” or “shadows”) is a Holy Week devotion that dates back to the seventh or eighth century A.D.

The service is divided into five parts, each highlighting a nail driven into the cross of Jesus—the words coming from Isaiah, the Psalms, the Gospel passion accounts, and the book of Lamentations.

At the conclusion of the service, the congregation will whisper 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.

T
(the Christ candle is lit)

WELCOME

1

THE NAIL OF BETRAYAL

ENTRANCE HYMN: “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

How deep the Father’s love for us, How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.
I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom.

READINGS: John 13:21-30
21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.” 22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.” 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” 26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

RESPONSE
All: Lord Jesus, I too have betrayed You. Lord, have mercy.

(“Betrayal” is nailed to the cross)

(The First Candle is extinguished)

PSALM 55
Pastor: Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea.
People: Hear and answer me.
Pastor: My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught at the voice of the enemy.
People: They bring down suffering upon me and revile me in their anger.
Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.
Pastor: Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
People: I would fly away and be at rest.
Pastor: I would hurry to my place of shelter.
People: far from the tempest and the storm.
Pastor: If a foe were raising himself against me, I could endure it, but it is you,
People: my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship.

2
THE NAIL OF DENIAL

54 Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55 And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. 56 A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.” 57 But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said. 58 A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” “Man, I am not!” Peter replied. 59 About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.” 60 Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” 62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

RESPONSE
ALL: Lord Jesus, I too, have denied You. Lord, have mercy.

(Denial is nailed to the cross.)

(Second Candle is extinguished)

HYMN: LSB 570 “Just As I Am, Without One Plea”
1 Just as I am, without one plea
    But that Thy blood was shed for me
    And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
    O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev’ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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3
THE NAIL OF CONDEMNATION

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

13 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, 14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 Therefore, I will punish him and
then release him.” 18 But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” 19 (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) 20 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. 21 But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” 22 For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.” 23 But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. 24 So Pilate decided to grant their demand. 25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

RESPONSE

All: Lord, Jesus I too have condemned You. Lord, have mercy.

(“Condemnation” is nailed to the cross.)

(The Third Candle is extinguished)

PSALM 17

Pastor: Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea; listen to my cry. Give ear to my prayer—it does not rise from deceitful lips.

People: Though You probe my heart and examine me at night, though You test me, You will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.

Pastor: By the word of Your lips I have kept myself from the ways of the violent.

People: My steps have held to Your path, my feet have not slipped.

Pastor: I call on You, O God, for You will answer me.

People: Show the wonder of Your great love.

Pastor: You who save by Your right hand those who take refuge in You.

People: Keep me at the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me; They are like a lion hungry for prey.

Pastor: They close up their callus hearts, and their mounts speak arrogance.

People: They have tracked me down, they now surround me; they are like a lion hungry for prey.

Pastor: And I – in righteousness I will see Your face;
People: When I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing Your likeness.

Hymn   LSB 451 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”
1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
    See Him dying on the tree!
    ’Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
    Yes, my soul, ’tis He, ’tis He!
    ’Tis the long-expected Prophet,
    David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
    Proofs I see sufficient of it:
    ’Tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, ye who 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 stroke that pierced Him
    Was the stroke that justice gave.

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
    Nor suppose the evil great
    Here may view 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.

4 Here we have a firm foundation,
    Here the refuge of the lost:
    Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
    Is the name of which we boast;
    Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
    Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
    None shall ever be confounded
    Who on Him their hope have built.

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4
THE NAIL OF MOCKERY


6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. 8 “He trusts in the LORD,” they say, “let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

27 Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

All: Lord Jesus, I too have mocked you. Lord, have mercy.

(“Mockery” is nailed to the cross.)

(These Fourth Candle is extinguished)

PSALM 4

Pastor: Answer me when I call to You, O my righteous God.
People: Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.
Pastor: How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame?
People: How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
Pastor: Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord will hear when I call to Him.
People: In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.
Pastor: Many are asking, “Who can show us any good?” Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O Lord.
People: You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. I will lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

SONG: LSB 550 “Lamb of God”
1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
   But You have sent Him from Your side
   To walk upon this guilty sod,
   And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain
ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
   I love the holy Lamb of God!
   O wash me in His precious blood,
   My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
   They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
   The humble King they named a fraud,
   And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
   But You have brought me to Your side
   To be led by Your staff and rod,
   And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain

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5

THE NAIL OF CRUCIFIXION

READINGS: Lamentations 3:1-8 and John 19:16-17
1 I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the LORD’s wrath. 2 He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; 3 indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. 4 He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones. 5 He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. 6 He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. 7 He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed
me down with chains. 8 Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer.

16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

RESPONSE
All: Lord, we all have crucified you.

(the nail of crucifixion is nailed to the cross.)

(The Fifth Candle is extinguished)

HYMN: LSB 610 “Lord Jesus Think on Me”

1 Lord Jesus, think on me
   And purge away my sin;
   From worldly passions set me free
   And make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
   By anxious thoughts oppressed;
   Let me Your loving servant be
   And taste Your promised rest.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me
   Amid the battle’s strife;
   In all my pain and misery,
   O be my health and life!

4 Lord Jesus, think on me
   Nor let me go astray;
   Through darkness and perplexity
   Point out Your chosen way.

5 Lord Jesus, think on me
   That, when this life is past,
   I may the eternal brightness see
   And share Your joy at last.

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6
THE NAIL OF FORSAKENNESS

READINGS: Isaiah 53:4-6 and Mark 15:33-34
4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

All: Lord Jesus, I too have forsaken You. Lord, have mercy.

(“Forsakenness” is nailed to the cross.)

(The Sixth Candle is extinguished)

Hymn: LSB 450 vs. 1-5 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”
1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
   With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
   With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
   What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
   I joy to call Thee mine.

2 How pale Thou art with anguish,
   With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
   That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
   Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.

3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners’ gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
’Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.

4 My Shepherd, now receive me;
My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
To heav’nly joys above.

5 What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love for Thee.

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7

THE NAIL OF BURIAL

READINGS: Mark 15:42-46
42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning
the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

(“Burial/Death” is nailed to the cross.)

(The Seventh Candle is extinguished)

**HYMN:  LSB 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
   On which the Prince of Glory died,
   My richest gain I count but loss
   And pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
   Save in the death of Christ, my God;
   All the vain things that charm me most,
   I sacrifice them to His blood.

3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
   Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
   Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
   Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
   That were a tribute far too small;
   Love so amazing, so divine,
   Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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**LORD’S PRAYER (whispered by all)**

C 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 Christ candle is removed)

The Streptitus
(The streptitus symbolizes the earthquake and the closing of the tomb)

(The Christ candle is returned and symbolizes that the Lord of the world will truly come to life as He said He would.)

HYMN  LSB 456 vs. 1-3 “Were You There”

1. 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?

2. 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?

3. 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?

(As the lights become brighter, anticipate the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.)