

† GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE †

April 2, 2021

NOTES ON THE TENEBRAE

The name Tenebrae comes from the Latin word for "darkness." The seven candles on the altar are extinguished one by one, after speaking the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. The church lights are also gradually dimmed so that by the end of the service there are no lights at all and the church sits in darkness. The Christ Candle is carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the moment of Jesus' human death, and we depart the church in quiet reflection.

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PRELUDE

Gethsemane

David Cherwien

CROSS PROCESSIONAL

(The congregation is invited to stand and face the cross)

P Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

(The procession moves to the chancel; the organ will play quietly as the procession goes forward.)

P Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

C Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.

(The cross is stationed in the chancel)

GREETING and OPENING PRAYER

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, look with loving mercy on this 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, now and forever. Amen.

RESPONSORY *(based on Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53)*

P My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

C O my God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

P Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel.

C In You our fathers put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.

P Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

C I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

P My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. You lay me in the dust of death.

C But You, O Lord, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

P He was despised and rejected by the people, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

C Like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

P Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

C yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.

P But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;

C the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

(Please be seated)

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

Mark 15:1-39

(The congregation is invited to join in by reading the lines highlighted in bold)

Part I

P 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. ⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back,

C "Crucify him!"

P ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more,

C "Crucify him."

P ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

HYMN MEDITATION

My Song is Love Unknown

Charles Callahan

Part II

L ¹⁶Then the soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him,

C "Hail, King of the Jews!"

L ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹They compelled a passerby, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

C "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

L ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

C "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

L Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

HYMN MEDITATION

O Dearest Jesus

Michael Burkhardt

Part III

P ³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

C "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

P ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

C "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

P ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

C "Truly this man was God's Son!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN MEDITATION

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

J. S. Bach

THE BIDDING PRAYER (*Congregation rising*)

P We pray for the church: 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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for all the people of God: Strengthen and uphold our pastors 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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for those who do not yet believe: You created humanity so that all may long to know You and find peace in You. Grant that all people may recognize the signs of Your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Your faithful followers. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for those who serve in public office: 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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for those in need: 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, and deliver us from hunger and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on You, that they may have the joy of receiving Your help in their time of need. We lift up especially all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray:

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.

HANDBELL HYMN MEDITATION

What Wondrous Love is This

Arnold Sherman

† THE TENEBRAE †

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

(A Scripture reading precedes each of the Seven Last Words. After each word is spoken by the pastor, we extinguish one candle and observe a moment of quiet meditation.)

L You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. (*Matt. 5:43-45*)

P Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

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L He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (*Revelation 2:7*)

P Today, you will be with me in paradise.

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L For this is what the Lord says: I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream...As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. (*Isaiah 66:12-13*)

P Woman, behold your son...son, behold your mother.

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L Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. (*Psalms 22:16-18*)

P Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani?...My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

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L You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before You. Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst. (*Psalms 69:18-21*)

P I thirst.

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L Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You. For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do. (*John 17:1-4*)

P It is finished.

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L In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in Your righteousness. Turn Your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.... Into Your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth. (*Psalms 31:1-2, 5*)

P Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit.

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CLOSING PRAYER

P Lord Jesus, You carried our sins in Your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we, and all who remember this day, find new life in You, now and in the world to come, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING OF THE BOOK OF LIFE

REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SOLO

Were You There
Sung by Lorelei Heath

- Traditional Spiritual

TOLLING OF THE BELL

(The bell tolls 33 times to commemorate the death of Jesus)

We depart in silence. Offerings and attendance cards may be left in the offering plate by the Jesus Fountain.

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Special thanks to our worship assistants:

12:00 Audrey Heath, crucifer

7:30 Chloe Runge, crucifer

News and Notes:

Easter Services: We invite you to celebrate the resurrection with us in the sanctuary. No reservations are required. The Saturday service will be the same as Sunday morning (not a separate Easter Vigil liturgy). Anyone who ordered Easter flowers may pick them up after the 10:45 service.

Spring Blood Drive on Saturday, April 10, at VLC from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the MPR. Help us give back to the community in a truly life-changing way, since each donation collected can save up to three lives. If you have any questions, contact Kim Zwisdak in the Development Office, 914-337-0207 x1040 or KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org. A sign-up sheet is available at the welcome table in the Reception Area or go online to <https://tinyurl.com/April10BloodDrive>

Prayer Conference call resumes on Tuesday, April 13, at 6:00 p.m. Join Pastor Hartwell and Minister of Music Deb Reiss for quiet reflective prayer as we thank God for the blessings He provides and lift up the needs of world during the pandemic. The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982. If you have any prayer requests, please fill out the back side of the Attendance Form at in-person worship or contact Kim Rapillo, Church Office Administrative Assistant, at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Our next date will be on **Wednesday, April 14.** Please sign up in advance to choose your volunteer date and food item, pick up an aluminum tray (back of church or Reception Area), prepare food at home, and drop off at church between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. For more info, contact Nelly Palumbo at 347-538-2909 or NPalumbo@thechapelschool.org.

1st Communion Instruction for 5th grade and older will take place on **Wednesdays, April 14, 21 and 28, at 6:00 p.m.** We are now planning to offer the classes via Zoom and meet in person to create individual banners. The 1st Communion celebration is scheduled for **Sunday, May 2, at the 10:45 service.** If you would like to have your child complete the 1st Holy Communion classes, please call 914-337-0207 (1003) or e-mail VLCMAIL@VLC-NY.ORG to receive a registration form. The Chapel School students and community youth are welcome, too!

Blessing Basket/Food for ECAP: Drop off items in the Blessing Baskets in the Friendship Room on weekends or leave them with the receptionist during the week. Outdoor drop-off in the Concordia parking lot is available on the third Thursday of the month. The next date is **April 15.**

Women's Bible Study/LWML Group will resume meeting in person on **Saturday, April 17, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MPR. Remote participants will also be able to join via Zoom. The discussion for this month will be on Chapters 18 and 19 of the Stormie Omartian book. For more information, contact Deacon Wendy Krolides (914-391-9356) or Terry Vidal (terry.n.vidal@gmail.com).

The Atlantic District LWML Virtual Retreat "Life in the Son" will be held on **Saturday, April 24, at 10:00 a.m.** Come share in worship, Bible Study, song, mission and fellowship. For more information contact Jeanette Coulthurst, Chapel School teacher and VP for Mission Outreach of the LWML-Atlantic District, at atlanticlwml@gmail.com.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Dean Carbone, Frank Clark, Edward Condolff, Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Gail Eckstein, Dave Emmons, Werner Fick, Denzil Francis, Annabella Hansen, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Frank Lyman, Jayne Marra, Norah Murphy, Joan Paliotta, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualitero, Johnathan Richards, Pete & Vera Richards, Morena Rodriguez, Syble Schexnayder, Andrew Shreeves, Lila Slattery, Steve Smith, Ben Tashoff, Vincent Valentino

Bereavement Prayer Line: We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

- † **Robert Sanger**, father of Amy Heath, who passed away on March 28, 2021
- † **Lillian DiMucci**, mother-in-law of Skip Hansen, who passed away on March 19, 2021
- † **Robert "Bob" Roberts**, beloved longtime church member, who passed away on March 13, 2021

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
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