

ORLC Tenebrae Service



At noon on Good Friday, darkness fell upon the land. Good Friday is not a funeral or a time of grief over Jesus' death. It is a day of repentance over sin. It is a day of reflecting upon one's own sin which held Jesus upon the cross. However, it is also a day of restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross. In keeping with this, the altar is bare. The sanctuary is darkened. Music is kept to a minimum. Even the benediction, the good word at the end of the service is withheld in anticipation of the Good News of Easter.

Tonight, we pray for forgiveness in eager expectation of the empty tomb.

**Please Stand*

Opening

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

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

**Please Sit*

Psalmody

Psalm 22 (ESV)

To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

1 My 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.

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

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

5 To 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.

7 All 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!"

9 Yet 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.

11 Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

12 Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

13 they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

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

it is melted within my breast;

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

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

**1st Candle Extinguished*

Psalm 2 (ESV)

1 Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

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

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

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

20 Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild
oxen!

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,

and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

25 From you comes my praise in the great
congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

28 For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

30 Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to
a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,

3 "Let us burst their bonds apart

and cast away their cords from us.”

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.

5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

6 “As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”

7 I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your
heritage,

**2nd Candle Extinguished*

Psalm 27 (ESV)

Of David.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me

to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,

it is they who stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me,

yet I will be confident.

4 One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;

he will lift me high upon a rock.

6 And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,

and I will offer in his tent

**3rd Candle Extinguished*

Psalm 51 (ESV)

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan
the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to
Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy

and the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

8 You have said, “Seek my face.”

My heart says to you,
“Your face, Lord, do I seek.”

9 Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me in.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they breathe out violence.

13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of
the Lord

in the land of the living!

14 Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

wait for the Lord!

blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**4th Candle Extinguished*

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give
it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.
18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Hymn – O Sacred Head Now Wounded (1-3) #450 LSB for all verses

Verse 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.

Verse 2

How pale Thou art with anguish
With sore abused and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languished
That once was bright as morn!

Grim death, what cruel rigor,
Hath robbed thee of thy life;
Thus thou has lost thy vigor,
Thy strength in this sad strife.

Verse 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,
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace

Reading – John 19:1-16a

John 19:1–16 (ESV)

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. **2** And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. **3** They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. **4** Pilate 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." **5** So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" **6** When 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.” **7** The 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.” **8** When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. **9** He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. **10** So 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?” **11** Jesus 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.”

12 From 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.” **13** So 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. **14** Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” **15** They 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.” **16a** So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

**5th Candle Extinguished*

Hymn – O Sacred Head Now Wounded (4-7)

Verse 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.

Verse 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 to Thee.

Verse 6

My Savior, be Thou near me
When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore!

When soul and body languish,
O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
By virtue of Thine own!

Verse 7

Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.

Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

Reading: John 19:16b-42

John 19:16–42 (ESV)

16b So they took Jesus, **17** and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. **18** There

they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. **19** Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read,

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” **20** Many 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. **21** So 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.’” **22** Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

23 When 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, **24** so 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, **25** but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” **27** Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” **29** A 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. **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God

**6th Candle Extinguished*

Responsory

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation of our sins

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

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

38 After 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. **39** Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. **40** So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. **41** Now 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. **42** So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation of our sins

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**Sit*

Office Hymn – 260 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

Verse 1

Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy word:

Curb those who fain by craft or sword

Would wrest the kingdom from Thy Son,

And set at naught all He hath done.

Verse 2

Lord Jesus Christ,

Thy pow'r make known;

For Thou art Lord of lords alone:

Defend Thy Christendom, that we

May evermore sing praise to Thee.

Verse 3

O Comforter, of priceless worth,

Send peace and unity on earth;

Support us in our final strife,

And lead us out of death to life.

Sermon

Canticle – Song of Habakkuk

**Stand*

P: O Lord, I have heard the report of you,
and your work, O Lord, do I fear.

In the midst of the years revive it;

in the midst of the years make it known;

in wrath remember mercy.

**C: God came from Teman,
and the Holy One from Mount Paran.
His splendor covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of his praise.**

P: His brightness was like the light;
rays flashed from his hand;
and there he veiled his power.

**C: Before him went pestilence,
and plague followed at his heels.**

P: He stood and measured the earth;
he looked and shook the nations;
then the eternal mountains were scattered;
the everlasting hills sank low.
His were the everlasting ways.

**C: I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.**

P: Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord?
Was your anger against the rivers,
or your indignation against the sea,

when you rode on your horses,
on your chariot of salvation?

**C: You stripped the sheath from your bow,
calling for many arrows.
You split the earth with rivers.**

P: The mountains saw you and writhed;
the raging waters swept on;
the deep gave forth its voice;
it lifted its hands on high.

**C: The sun and moon stood still in their place
at the light of your arrows as they sped,
at the flash of your glittering spear.**

P: You marched through the earth in fury;
you threshed the nations in anger.

**C: You went out for the salvation of your people,
for the salvation of your anointed.
You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,
laying him bare from thigh to neck.**

P: You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his
warriors,

who came like a whirlwind to scatter me,
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.

**C: You trampled the sea with your horses,
the surging of mighty waters.**

P: I hear, and my body trembles;
my lips quiver at the sound;
rotteness enters into my bones;
my legs tremble beneath me.

Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble
to come upon people who invade us.

**C: Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail**

**and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,**

P: yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

**ALL: God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.**

**7th Candle Extinguished*

Prayers

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross. You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Christ Candle is extinguished symbolizing the death of Jesus.*

**The Strepitus – the loud noise of the Word of God being closed reminds us of the earthquake at Christ's death, and the closing of the tomb.*

**After a moment of silence, the Christ Candle is re-lit symbolizing the hope of resurrection.*

**The congregation leaves in silence with minimal light*