

Little Falls United Methodist Church

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 7, 2023 - 7 pm



A Service of Tenebrae (Darkness) is based upon a 12th century late night and early morning service of worship and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ.

Online Worship information is here: <https://www.LittleFallsUMC.org/goodfriday>
YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOzxLc7UQjeMNprjm9u8gtQ/>

Join in Online Worship Services during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday!

- **Good Friday Service** at 7 pm on April 7, Friday at Sanctuary
- **Easter Sunrise Service** at 6 am on April 9, Sunday at the front yard
- **Easter Sunday Worship** at 10 am on April 9, Sunday at Sanctuary

Prepare yourself for Worship!

GREETING & INVOCATION

Leader: Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ.

All: We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.

Leader: Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

All: Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.

Leader: Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid. Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called "Good."

All: Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might have the faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.

OPENING HYMN *Lamb of God* TFWS 2113

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

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

Oh Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

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

Oh Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

THE LESSONS FROM SCRIPTURE
(from the Gospel of John, Chapters 18 and 19)

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Reading 1: John 18:1-18 (Arrest and Denial)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” ⁵They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” ¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Hymn: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* **TFWS 2112 v1**
Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
He had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
He had to walk it by himself.

Reading 2: John 18:19-40 (High Priests and Pilate)

¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶One of the slaves 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?” ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” ³¹Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Hymn: *To Mock Your Reign* **UMH 285 v1,2**

To mock your reign, O dearest Lord,
they made a crown of thorns;
set you with taunts along that road
from which no one returns.

They did not know, as we do now,
that glorious is your crown;
that thorns would flower upon your brow,
your sorrows heal our own.

In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord,
they snatched a purple cloak,
your passion turned, for all they cared,
into a soldier's joke.

They did not know, as we do now,
that though we merit blame
you will your robe of mercy throw
around our naked shame.

Reading 3: John 19:1-16 (Jesus Sentenced to Death)

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus;

Hymn: *What Wondrous Love is This* UMH 292 v1,2

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, That caused the Lord of bliss,
To bear the dreadful curse, for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I AM, "
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

Reading 4: John 19:17-30 (The Crucifixion of Jesus)

¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, '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 clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hymn: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* UMH 297 v1-2

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,

the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

2. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

Reading 5: John 19:31-37 (Jesus' Side Pierced)

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then 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. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* UMH 298

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

Forbid me 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

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

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

MEDITATION

Why is Jesus on the Cross? **Rev. Jin Kook Kim**

Last Fall, my family went to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. We enjoyed looking at the works of art: pictures, statues, etc. One of the sections was for paintings themed on the Bible. When we were there, my kids found Jesus and they were excited saying, “Here is Jesus.” “There is Jesus too.” I was glad that they recognized Jesus and they were excited and enjoyed finding Jesus in many paintings. I said to myself in my heart, “yes, they are pastor's kids.” While we were looking at the paintings, my youngest child, Gian, asked me and my wife, “Why is Jesus on the Cross?” Yes, she was looking at Jesus on the cross in paintings. I said in my heart, “it is because of you.” However, I didn’t say that to her because I felt that saying that to her would be crucial. However, at the very time, my wife said, “It is because of you. Jesus was on the cross because of you.” Gian’s eyes got bigger. And my wife said, “Jesus was on the cross because of our sins.” Then, she didn’t ask any further questions.

We know that Jesus died on the cross. Do we know that he was on the cross because of you and me? We usually say that Jesus died for us. How many times do we say, “Jesus died for me,” rather than “Jesus died for us.” Me vs Us. We may want to decrease our guilty feeling by saying, “Jesus died for us” rather than “Jesus died for me.” Yes, Jesus died for all of us, for all our sins because all people committed sins. However, Jesus died for each of us for each of our sins. Jesus died for me and my sin. This is true although that makes us feel guilty more.

I want to show you a painting that I looked at in the Metropolitan Museum. I stood before the painting for a while. Here it is. What do you see? Do you see Jesus in the painting? Do you see the three people? This painting looks like the three women holding Jesus who died already. The reason that I stood at the painting for a while is that I could see their tears. Holding Jesus' body, they were crying. The painter looks to point out the tears of the three women. What would be the meaning of their tears? They would have their reasons for tearing. It could be love, pity, sorrow, or other reasons.

Have you ever cried for Jesus’ death? Have you ever cried for Jesus’ suffering? Have you ever cried for Jesus' sacrifice for yourself? I cried. I cried a lot when I realized that Jesus died for me. Praying, I said, “I am sorry, Jesus. I am sorry, Jesus. Because of me, you died on the cross. Because of my sin, you suffered on the cross. I am sorry that I made you be crucified.” That was the moment that I committed to serve God. I believe that Jesus gave me a new life through his cross, his love, and grace. I profess my life is Jesus’, not mine. So the direction of my life is to follow God’s will and desire. The relevance between Jesus’ death and me is that Jesus died for me, for my sin, to give me forgiveness, salvation, and a new life. And my foundation of faith and life is Jesus, his cross, his sacrifice, his love, and grace.

Have you ever cried for Jesus' death? Have you ever admitted that Jesus died on the cross for you? Do you know those who nailed Jesus on the cross were you and I? Church family, I pray that you find your own response. I pray that God leads and guides each of us to find the relevance between Jesus' death and each of us. What I can say is Jesus died for me. Amen.

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

Luke 23:34 "Father forgive them."

Luke 23:43 "Today, you will be with me in Paradise."

John 19:26-27 "Woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother."

John 19:28 "I thirst."

Matthew 27:46 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

John 19:30 "It is finished."

Luke 23:46 "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

CLOSING HYMN *Were You There* UMH 288

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 pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
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?

CLOSING SCRIPTURE John 19:38-42 (The Burial of Jesus)

38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. **39** Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. **40** They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. **41** Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. **42** And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

(While traditions differ, tonight the bell is tolled 7 times
in recognition of the last seven last words of Jesus.)

**There will be no music or noise of any kind following the chimes.
Remain in prayer and meditation as long as you like.**