

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3, 2026

Introduction

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers to celebrate Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the Lord.

Assemble in Silence

Please Rise

Hymn Were You There #353

- 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 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 pierced him in the side?



- 4 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 the sun refused to shine?
- 5 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?

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and 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.

Please be seated

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Pastor Judy

The Passion Story According to St. John

John 18:1-11

First Candle Extinguished

“Ah Holy Jesus” #349 vs 1

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
 that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
 By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

John 18:12-27

Second Candle Extinguished

#349 vs 2

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
 Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

John 19:25b-30

The Christ Candle is removed

#351 vs 3

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Streptitus

*As the final "Christ Candle" is removed from the worship space, the "streptitus" is heard.
The loud sound represents the shutting of the tomb.*

Special Music

Lamb of God

Mary Bader

John 19:31-42

#351 vs 4

Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing die safely in thy love.

Sermon

Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

#335

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain:
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.
2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.
4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Solemn Reproaches

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom,
and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for
your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. Forty
years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you
from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have
prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment
hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a
cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me.
I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit; I made you
branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your

Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,

and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Brief Silence

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Behold the lifegiving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

A Time of Silence and Prayer

We Leave in Silence

Worship Leaders

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| Ministers | The People of Hope Lutheran Church |
| Leader | Rev. Dr. Judy Kincaid |
| Greeters | Don and Rita Rassbach |
| Readers | Nola Storm, Ron Kaeding, Mary Bader, Steve Olson |
| Accompanist | Donna Benrud |

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