

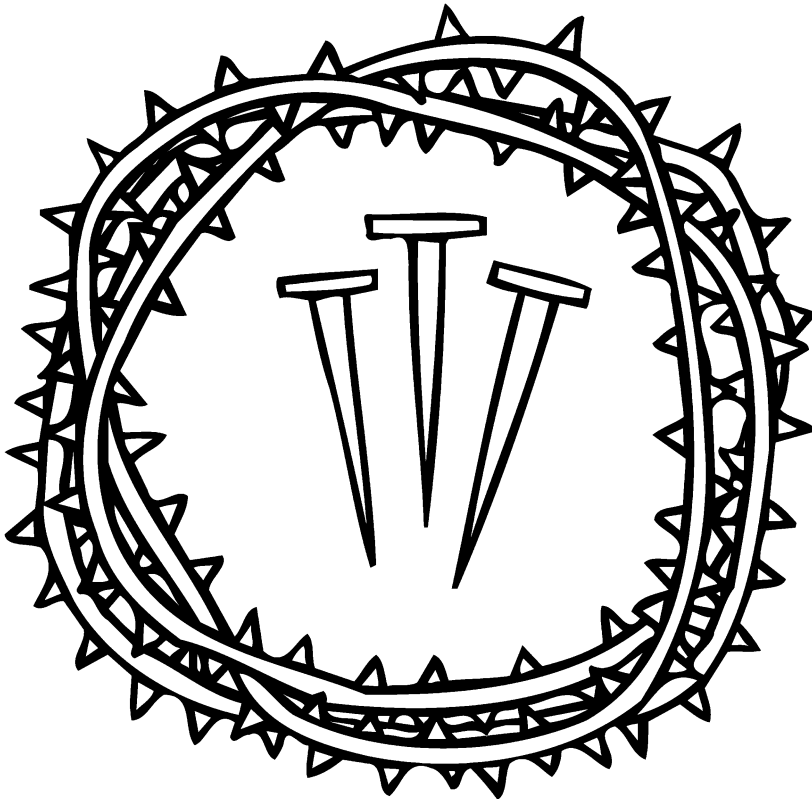
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**THE SERVICE OF DARKNESS
ON GOOD FRIDAY**

MARCH 29, 2024

8:30 PM

TENEBRAE



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TENEBRAE

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequence of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient Church held a special service in Holy Week, called *Tenebrae*. The meaning of the word "Tenebrae" is "darkness." This service begins in silence and ends in almost total darkness, the lights being gradually extinguished as the service proceeds. This is to remind us of the darkness that filled the earth when the Light of the World was put to death.

In our service one candle on either side of the altar will remain burning to announce the truth that death and hell did not prevail against the Son of God. We invite you to return on Easter Sunday to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

The timpani used in tonight's service signify the sinful fear, anger and betrayal that led to Jesus' death.

ENTRANCE PRAYER *Read silently by the individual worshiper before the service begins.*

O Blessed Jesus, you were condemned to die not by Pilate but by the sins I myself have committed. I repent with my whole heart for having grieved and offended you. I pray that you will save me, body and soul, from sin, death, and the devil. Guide me safely through this present world, and bring me at last to your Father's home. I love you Lord. Keep me always at your side. Grant that I will never forsake you. May your will be done in my life. Amen.

PERCUSSION PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER - *The congregation will rise*

HYMN:

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

ELW 345



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

INSTRUCTION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 53: 2-12

VERSICLE

P God spared not his own Son:

C But delivered him up for us all.

CHOIR RESPONSE

Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless

Nikolaus Decius

Lamb of God, pure and sinless,
once on the cross an off'ring,
patient, lowly, guiltless,
forsaken in your suff'ring:
from sin's grasp you have torn us,
from gloom to hope have borne us.
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus.

LESSON

Matthew 26: 47-50

INSTRUCTION

VERSICLE

P God spared not his own Son:

C But delivered him up for us all

HYMN:

Chief of Sinners though I Be

ELW 609



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won-drous thought—found me when I sought him not.

LESSON

Matthew 26: 62-68

INSTRUCTION

VERSICLE

- P God spared not his own Son:
- C **But delivered him up for us all.**

HYMN:

Savior, When in Dust to You

ELW 601



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due;
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,



when, re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be - low,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac - ri - fice,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

LESSON

Luke 23: 6-11

INSTRUCTION

VERSICLE

- P God spared not his own Son:
- C **But delivered him up for us all.**



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

LESSON

Matthew 27: 15-17, 20-26

INSTRUCTION

VERSICLE

- P God spared not his own Son:
 C **But delivered him up for us all.**

HYMN:

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

INSTRUCTION

LESSON

Matthew 27: 45-46

CHOIR RESPONSE

When Jesus Wept

William Billings, Edited K. Harley

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

REFLECTION

Consider how Jesus suffered indescribable agony in body and soul, and how he suffered this in your place.

LESSON

Luke 23: 50-56

PRAYER FOR A BLESSED DEATH**CHOIR RESPONSE**

God Loved the World

Bollhagen/Miller

God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son, the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

LESSON

Matthew 27: 62-66

INSTRUCTION**CHOIR RESPONSE**

We Glory in Your Cross

Thomas Pavlecko

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection,
For by your cross joy has come into the world.

May God be merciful to us and bless us;
May the light of God's face shine upon us.
Let your way be known upon earth,
And your saving health among all nations.

Hymn continues on page 10

Let the peoples praise you, O God,
Let all the peoples praise you.
May God give us blessing,
And may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection,
For by your cross joy has come into the world.

***TO OUR GUESTS:** God grant that his Word has touched your heart tonight.
We invite you to worship with us again.*

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30 @ 11 am here at Messiah
Living Easter Cross March 30th (12 pm after Easter Egg Hunt) & Easter March 31st
Bring fresh cut flowers to place on the wooden cross
Easter Sunrise Service at Bain Park Pavilion 6:30 AM
Easter Festival Service at 9AM & 11AM

***REGARDING TONIGHT'S OFFERINGS:** Offering will not be collected during the service.
Offering plates will be available in the narthex or hallway as you leave. Your financial offerings will support
the ongoing ministry & mission of Messiah.*

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SERVING TONIGHT

Readers: Rev. Seth C. Bridger
Rev. Jim R. Kulma, M. Div.

Acolytes: Noah Bridger, Gregory Prohaska

Interim Music Director: Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Timpanist: William Engelmann

Musical Ensemble: Messiah Choir

Deacons: Amy & Mark Hunger

Altar Guild: Diane Paton, Debbie Luekens

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Pastor – The Rev. Seth C. Bridger

Pastoral Assistant – Deaconess Ruth Mortensen

Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Technology Manager – Jared Waugaman

Building Manager – Jason Reynolds

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorf College Fund Director – Darlene Waugh

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Heinsbergen

Bookkeeper & Pierstorf College Fund Business Manager – Lisa Daley

Administrative Assistant – Diane Ward



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.

To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.