

Friday in Holy Week
Good Friday
THE TENEBRAE
“A Service of Shadows”, 7:30 PM
April 3, 2026
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
570-323-4619
The Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

***PLEASE ENTER THE NAVE AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE AND SILENCE
ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES.***



***Please stand**

Light print- Leader/**Bold print- Congregation**

SILENT MEDITATION

ANNOUNCING THE DAY/INTRODUCTION

Notes on Tonight's Worship

Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness”) is a liturgy of the Passion. At the conclusion of each reading, candles are extinguished and the nave grows ever darker as we near the announcement of Jesus' death. At the conclusion of our liturgy this evening, please leave the nave as quietly as possible, refraining from all conversation until after leaving the building.

If you care to leave an offering, please do so by way of the offering baskets provided.

***GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through the same Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***HYMN When I Survey the Wondrous Cross LBW, “Green”, 482**

***THE BIDDING PRAYER**

The pastor will offer a short intercession (a bidding). After each phrase silence will follow.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

THE SEVEN SHADOWS

The Shadow of Betrayal (Matthew 26:20-25)

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

Hymn What Wondrous Love is This LBW, “Green”, 385

The Shadow of Internal Agony (Luke 22:39-46)

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Hymn In the Hour of Trial LBW, “Green”, 106

The Shadow of Denial (Matthew 26:69-75)

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him

and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Hymn Ah, Holy Jesus LBW, "Green", 123 (sts. 1-4)

The Shadow of Accusation (Matthew 27:11-14, 20-23)

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

Hymn Go to Dark Gethsemane LBW, "Green", 109

The Shadow of Mockery (Matthew 27:24-29)

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Hymn O Sacred Head Now Wounded LBW, "Green", 117

The Shadow of Crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43)

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

LBW, "Green", 107

The Shadow of Death (Matthew 27:45-54)

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land[a] until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

+ *As the death of Jesus is read, a loud discord on the organ will be heard (the strepitus) symbolizing the death of Christ. The Paschal Candle will be carried out of the chancel for a short time and then brought back. This reminds us that for a brief time in history the “Light” did indeed go out.*

HYMN Were You There LBW, “Green”, 92 (sts. 1-3)

THE ADORATION OF THE CROSS (*Please kneel if able*)

Behold the life-giving cross on which hung the salvation for the whole world.

O come, let us adore him!

Behold the life giving cross on which hung the salvation for the whole world.

O come, let us adore him!

Behold the life giving cross on which hung the salvation for the whole world.

O come, let us adore him!

A period of silent prayer and reflection.

DISMISSAL (kneeling)

We adore and bless you O Christ,

For by your holy cross you have redeemed the entire world.

Please leave the nave as quietly as possible.

EASTER SERVICES

The Vigil (Saturday, April 4), 8 pm (Beginning in the Chapel)

Easter Sunday (Sunday, April 5),

8 am Holy Communion, Nave

9:15 am “Easter Hospitality”, Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Holy Communion, Nave

ALL ARE WELCOME!

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS NIGHT:

Lector Ralph Zeigler

Lector Pastor Vasey

Acolyte Lou Ann Zeigler

Usher Gary Weber

Organist Sam Robinson

