



Artwork from *He Was One of Us* by Rien Poortvliet

**Order of Worship for  
Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness**

April 2, 2021

Vasa Lutheran Church

Pastor Maureen Hagen and Tom Erickson, accompanist

**Tenebrae (Latin for darkness)** was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer service celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. More recently Christians have transferred this service to the afternoon or evening of Good Friday where it continues the journey through the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of this service is the passion reading. This year we read the story according to Luke. As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally, we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. With all God's people we are invited to bow before this mystery of faith. Christ has died so that we may live.

*We gather in silence.*

**GREETING:** We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (In Unison)  
Redeeming Creator, **Dust and rocks groan. Deserts and prairies weep. Bushes and trees moan. Rivers and oceans roar. Animals of land, sea, and sky recoil. Sun cowers and moon wanes. Humanity fails. And darkness laughs. But it will not have its way with us forever. Amen.**

**PSALM 22:1-18**

L:<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning?

**C: <sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.**

L:<sup>14</sup>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;

**C:<sup>15</sup>my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.**

L:<sup>16</sup>For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shriveled

**C:<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones.  
They stare and gloat over me;**

L:<sup>18</sup>they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

**C: <sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!**

L: <sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog!

**C: <sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.**

**The Passion Story According to Luke**

**Luke 22:39-53** He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. 40 When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." 41 Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. 44 In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. 45 When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." 47 While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; 48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" 49 When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" 50 Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. 52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

**HYMN:****GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE****ELW 347***Verses 1-3*

**Luke 22:54-71** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. 55 When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. 56 Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." 58 A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" 59 Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. 61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; 64 they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" 65 They kept heaping many other insults on him. 66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. 67 They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; 68 and if I question you, you will not

answer. 69 But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." 70 All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

**HYMN:**

**O SACRED HEAD NOW WOUNDED**

**ELW 351**

**Luke 23:1-12** Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. 2 They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." 3 Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." 5 But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place." 6 When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. 7 And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. 8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. 9 He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. 11 Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. 12 That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

**HYMN:**

**WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS**

**ELW 666**

**Luke 23:13-43** Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, 14 and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 I will therefore have him flogged and release him." 17 18 Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" 19 (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) 20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; 21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" 22 A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." 23 But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. 24 So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. 28

But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31 For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" 32 Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 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. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35 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!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." 39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

## There Is a Green Hill Far Away



1 There is a green hill far a - way, out - side a cit - y wall,  
 2 We may not know, we can - not tell, what pains he had to bear,  
 3 He died that we might be for - giv'n; he died to make us good,



where the dear Lord was cru - ci - fied, who died to save us all.  
 but we be - lieve it was for us he hung and suf - fered there.  
 that we might go at last to heav'n, saved by his pre - cious blood.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823–1895

Music: WINDSOR, Daman, *Booke of Musicke*, 1591

**Luke 23:44-56** It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. 47 When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this

man was innocent." 48 And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. 49 But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, 51 had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

#### **HYMN:**

#### **Were You There?**

**verses 1-3**

- 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 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?

#### **BIDDING PRAYERS**

Each petition ends with the words, *In Jesus' name we pray.*  
Please respond with **Amen.**

#### **THE 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**

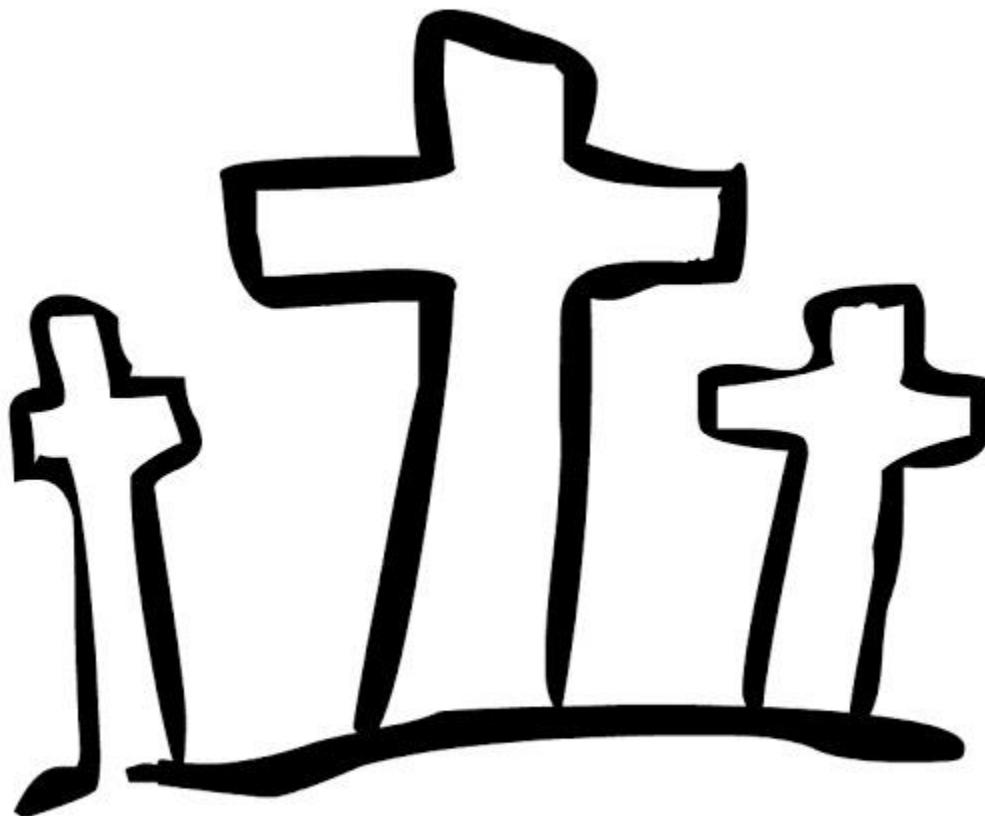
P: Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**C: Oh, come, let us worship him.**

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

**C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*All depart in silence after the tolling of the bell.*





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