

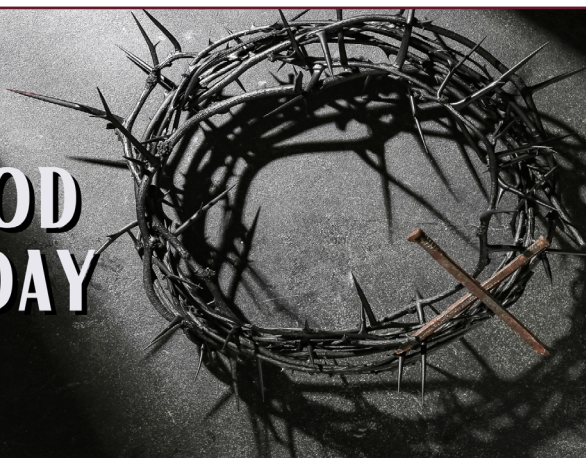


**ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**April 18, 2025**

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# GOOD FRIDAY



## Good Friday

**Invocation  
Responsive Scripture**

*Isaiah 53:3-12*

**Hymn**

*#436 Go to Dark Gethsemane*

**Prayer of Confession / Absolution**

**Celebration Ringers**

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded (7pm)*

**The Seven Last Words of Christ**

**I.** *Luke 23:32-37*

**Message**

**Candle Extinguishment**

**Voices of St. John**

*Father, Forgive*

**II.** *Luke 23:38-43*

**Candle Extinguishment**

*Thieves on a Cross*

**III.** *John 19:25-27*

**Candle Extinguishment**

*Pieces*

**IV.** *Matthew 27:45-46*  
**Candle Extinguishment  
Hymn**

*#451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*

**V.** *John 19:28-29*

**Candle Extinguishment**

**Voices Of St. John**

*At the Foot of the Cross*

**VI.** *John 19:30*

**Candle Extinguishment**

*I Surrender*

**VII.** *Luke 23:44-49*

**Candle Extinguishment**

**Voices of St. John**

*Forsaken*

**The Removal of the Christ Candle**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Strepitus**

*Were You There*

**The Return of the Christ Candle**

**Depart in Silence.....**

**Yet know this is not the end.....**

**The service continues on Sunday**

**6:30, 8, 9:30 & 11am**

## **Tenebrae Good Friday Service: The Seven Last Words of Christ**

The Tenebrae Good Friday Service is a solemn and reflective worship gathering that leads us through the final moments of Jesus' life on the cross. "Tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "darkness" or "shadows." This service helps us remember the great love Jesus showed by giving His life for the world.

### **The Seven Last Words of Christ**

Throughout the service, we focus on the seven last statements that Jesus spoke from the cross, often called His Seven Last Words. Each statement reveals something about His suffering, His love, and His mission to save us.

At the beginning of the service, seven candles are lit on the altar. After each of Jesus' last words is read from the Bible, a candle is extinguished, symbolizing the growing darkness as Jesus' life comes to an end. Music accompanies each reading, allowing for reflection and prayer.

#### **Order of the Service**

*"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)*

**Jesus asks God to forgive those who crucified Him, showing His mercy.**

*"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)*

**Jesus promises eternal life to the repentant thief on the cross.**

*"Woman, behold your son! ... Behold your mother!" (John 19:26-27)*

**Jesus cares for His mother, entrusting her to His disciple John.**

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34)*

**Jesus cries out in deep suffering, feeling the weight of sin.**

*"I thirst." (John 19:28)*

**Jesus, fully human, expresses His physical suffering.**

*"It is finished" (John 19:30)*

**Jesus declares His mission is complete—He has paid the price for sin.**

*"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)*

**Jesus surrenders His life to the Father, trusting in God's plan.**

#### **The Closing Moment**

After the final word, a loud sound (strepitus) is made, often by slamming a Bible shut or striking a drum. This represents the earthquake and the moment Jesus died. Then, in silence, everyone leaves, reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.

Though this service ends in darkness, it points us toward the hope of Easter Sunday, when Jesus rises from the dead and conquers sin and death forever.

This service is a powerful way to experience the depth of Jesus' love and the cost of our salvation. Whether you are new to the Christian faith or have attended church for years, the Tenebrae Good Friday Service invites you to pause, reflect, and prepare your heart for the joy of Easter.