



GOOD FRIDAY  
Service of Stones and Shadows  
March 29, 2024



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[ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)

# WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

***You are welcome here.***

*Life and death stand side by side as we enter Good Friday. Tonight's worship is a Service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae (or "Shadows") is based on a twelfth-century late night/early morning service as an extended meditation on the passion of Christ.*

*We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days at the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday.*

## ***Cover Image***

*Hochhalter, Cara B.. When They Crucified Jesus, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59271> [retrieved March 14, 2024]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### *Silence*

*Tonight, we gather in silence. Please take a stone to hold during our worship. Feel its weight. Place your worries and burdens on it as we listen to Jesus' last words from the cross as recorded in the gospels.*

*We will spend time in prayer, silence, and song as we contemplate Jesus' death which reveals the depth of God's love for us. Some of the songs are meant to be sung several times in repetition. As the words and music become our sung prayer, allow yourself to sink into the music.*

*One candle is extinguished during each song.*

ANTHEM | HE PRAYS ALONE traditional spiritual,  
"O Mary Don't You Weep" arr. Patrick Liebergen

GATHERING WORDS | Based on Lamentations 1:12

All you who pass this way,

**look and see, the shadow of sin.**

All you who pass this way,

**look and see the weight of the world.**

All you who pass this way,

**look and see, the suffering of our Savior.**

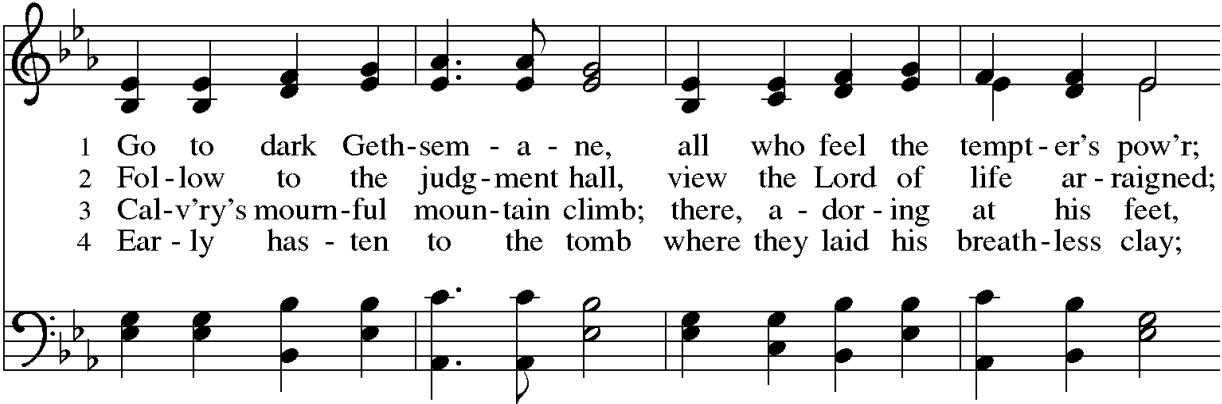
All you who pass this way,

**look and see, the sorrow of Jesus Christ.**

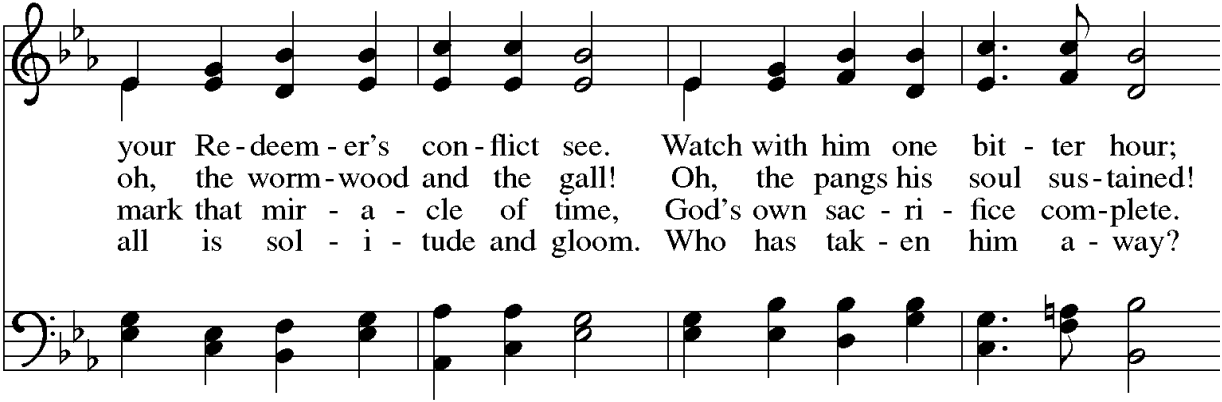
Behold, the Lamb of God,

**who takes away the sin of the world.**

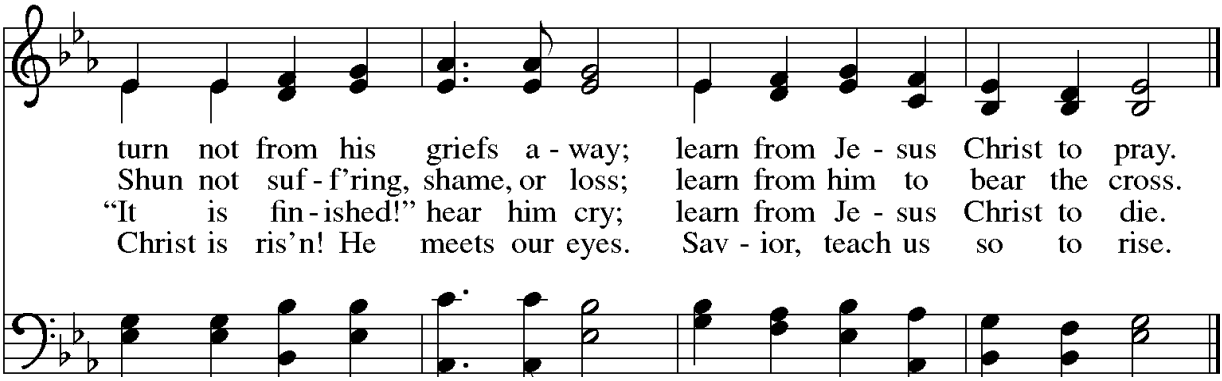
# GATHERING SONG | GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;  
 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fin-ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854  
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### SHADOW OF CONDEMNATION | LUKE 23:32-34

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.

### PRAYER

Forgiving Christ,  
when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come along side us in the darkness, and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

*Silence*

# HYMN | O FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
 in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006  
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750  
 Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

## SHADOW OF SEPARATION | LUKE 23:35-43

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 in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## PRAYER

Reconciling Christ,  
we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, people who are not whole. You reached out to the thief; you welcomed him to God's side. Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.

*Silence*

## HYMN | JESUS REMEMBER ME

Ostinato Refrain

Je-sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

Je-sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community, 1981  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## SHADOW OF SORROW | JOHN 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.



## PRAYER

Loving Jesus,  
we carry the weight of the people we love, concern for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.

*Silence*

# HYMN | AH, HOLY JESUS

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.

## SHADOW OF DESPAIR | MARK 15:33-34

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

### PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God's presence. Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God.

*Silence*

### HYMN | OUR DARKNESS / LA TÉNEBRE

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, the same key signature, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the / La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de-vant toi: la". The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, the same key signature, and a 3/4 time signature. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, the same key signature, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "deep - est night is clear as the day - light. / nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè - re.". Both systems end with a double bar line and repeat dots. Above the final measure of the treble staff in the second system is the instruction "Last time" with a fermata symbol. Above the final measure of the bass staff in the second system is the instruction "Last time" with a fermata symbol.

Text: Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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## SHADOW OF SUFFERING | JOHN 19:28-30

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### PRAYER

Suffering Savior,  
in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us through all our suffering.

*Silence*

# HYMN | WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## SHADOW OF DEATH | LUKE 23:44-49

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent.", And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

### PRAYER

Dearest Jesus,  
even in death, you are there. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there, too. Come alongside us in the darkness, and carry us through death to life.

*Silence*

## HYMN | STAY WITH ME

Stay with me, re - main here with me. Watch and  
pray, watch and pray.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me. Watch and pray, watch and pray." The score consists of two systems of music. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and single notes, providing a simple harmonic support for the vocal line.

*Silence*

## SOLO | WERE YOU THERE, *African American Spiritual* Sung by Peter de Mets

*As you leave worship this night, please place your stone near the lit candle in the back of the sanctuary, a symbol of leaving behind your worries and letting go of the weights of the world. Our stones are a marker of our encounter with God on this night and a sign of honor for Jesus as he lays in the tomb until Sunday morning.*

*We return for worship Easter morning at 10AM. (Easter egg hunt begins at 9:30AM.)*

**Thank you to our volunteers:**

Reader .....Anne Chmielewski  
Usher .....Tony Eith  
Tech .....John Carducci



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The Church Office is open Wednesdays from  
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.

Learn more about our community at [ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown](http://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown)  
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown