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## GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

### THE DARKNESS DEEPENS

March 29, 2024

*Tenebrae, a Latin word meaning "shadows," has been observed in the church of Jesus Christ since the fourth century. Traditionally, the church continues to darken throughout the service, ending with the darkness of the Son of God lying in the tomb. On this Good Friday, we will see the darkness deepen as we follow Jesus into the darkness of the cross. When Jesus' words announce to us that he suffers the agony of hell, the darkness is complete. Yet, at that very moment, the sanctuary will begin to brighten. Jesus suffered that darkness of being forsaken by God as our substitute. As we continue to the tomb, the sanctuary becomes brighter again because we know the placing of Jesus' body in the tomb is only a preparation for what is about to happen Easter morning. We will leave the sanctuary in silence and semi-darkness, eager to step back into semi-darkness on Easter morning to see the full light of Resurrection Day.*

#### TOLLING BELLS ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF CHRIST

#### A READING FROM ISAIAH 53

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

**C Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me. Amen.**

#### THE DARKNESS DEEPENS

*The darkness deepens. The first Good Friday began dark. Jesus had been arrested in the darkness of the Garden of Gethsemane. In the darkness, Peter had denied knowing Jesus. In the darkness the Sanhedrin had convicted Jesus. As the day went on, the darkness deepened. The crowds chose that an innocent man be sentenced to death and a murderer be set free.*

#### FIRST LESSON

**Matthew 27:15-26, Bible page 998**

**M "His blood is on us and on our children." There is light in this darkness for the LORD had said of the blood of the Passover Lamb:**

**C "When I see the blood I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13).**

**M By faith we see "his blood is on us and on our children."**

**C By faith we see the judgment of death has passed over us.**

O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken  
 That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?  
 Of what great crime have you to make confession  
 What dark transgression?

They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;  
 With cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;  
 They give you gall to drink, they still decry you;  
 They crucify you.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
 The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
 We forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted  
 God is committed.

#### THE DARKNESS IN OUR HEARTS

*It continues to grow darker. After the governor's injustice, the soldiers ridicule him. Listen to the sad events in the Praetorium, and then in humility let us consider our own part in this public ridicule.*

#### LESSON TWO

Matthew 27:27-31, Bible page 998

M It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance.

C **To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace (Hebrews 6:4-6).**

M "Who then can be saved?"

C **"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:25-26)**

M Let us confess the darkness of our hearts by which we crucify the Son of God all over again:

All **Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by my sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

*Silence for personal confession.*

M Jesus "was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53). Our God has done the impossible. Through Jesus, our God is at peace with us.

C **Amen.**

My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,  
 Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.  
 Oh, who am I That for my sake  
 My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne Salvation to bestow,  
 But such disdain! So few The longed-for Christ would know!  
 But oh, my friend, My friend indeed,  
 Who at my need His life did spend!

Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?  
 He made the lame to run; He gave the blind their sight.  
 Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
 Themselves displease And 'gainst him rise.

Here might I stay and sing; No story so divine,  
 Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, In whose sweet praise  
 I all my days Could gladly spend!

#### DARKNESS OVERSHADOWS THE HEART OF THE SON OF MAN

*The soldiers ridiculed Jesus. Now those who pass by ridicule him. The chief priests ridicule him. Even the criminals crucified with Jesus ridicule him. The darkness deepens.*

#### THIRD LESSON

Matthew 27:32-44, Bible page 998

- M What we cannot see from the foot of the cross is how that darkness impacted the Son of Man himself. The Holy Spirit revealed the power of that darkness as the Son of Man spoke through King David in Psalm 22.
- C **But I am a worm and not a man,  
 scorned by everyone, despised by the people.  
 All who see me mock me;  
 they hurl insults, shaking their heads.  
 "He trusts in the Lord," they say,  
 "let the Lord rescue him.  
 Let him deliver him,  
 since he delights in him."**
- M "We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
- C **"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4).**

## INTO COMPLETE DARKNESS

*Three times in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus concludes a parable with warning that a person will be "thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." In this next reading we follow Jesus outside the city gate and into the weeping and darkness of separation from all of God's blessings.*

### FOURTH LESSON

**Matthew 27:45-46**, Bible page 999

M My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

C **Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?**

M My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

C **by night, but I find no rest.** (Psalm 22:1-2)

### MEDITATION IN THE DARKNESS

### MUSICAL MEDITATION

M For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;

C **he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.**

## THE DARKNESS OVERCOME BY THE LIGHT OF FULFILLMENT

*With our Savior's suffering of the punishment of hell complete, the darkness is pushed back. Notice how the Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled.*

### FIFTH LESSON

**John 19:28-30**, Bible page 1087

M The work was done. Salvation was accomplished. The light of fulfillment comes to our eyes.  
Jesus said: "I thirst."

C **I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted within me.  
My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
you lay me in the dust of death (Psalm 22).**

M Jesus said: "It is finished."

C **Posterity will proclaim his righteousness,  
declaring to a people yet unborn:  
He has done it! (Psalm 22)**

## THE DARKNESS OVERCOME BY TRUSTWORTHY WITNESSES

*It is really true that Jesus died? Has he fulfilled the prophecies? Listen to the Apostle John, an eyewitness to his death and his resurrection.*

### SIXTH LESSON

**John 19:31-37**, Bible page 1087

*Soloist*

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
nailed to a cross of wood.

**Oh, to see the pain written on your face,  
bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed  
crowning your bloodstained brow.**

*Refrain*

**This the pow'r of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath;  
we stand forgiven at the cross.**

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath  
quakes as its maker bows his head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;  
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.

*Refrain*

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
for through your suff'ring I am free.  
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,  
won through your selfless love!

*Refrain x2*

**This the pow'r of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath;  
we stand forgiven at the cross.**

## THE DARKNESS OVECOME BY THE LIGHT OF HOPE

*On that first Good Friday, this seemed to be the darkest time, but as we look back, this darkness is overshadowed by what is about to happen at that tomb on Easter morning. This is our day of preparation before the great celebration.*

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us see that is true of us too. At death, it seems the lights have gone out in our life. Help us see that death is just the preparation for the announcement that will be true of our grave too. Just as the angels said to the women, "HE is not here! He has risen just as he said," so on the last day the angels will say of our graves. "They are not here! They have risen from the dead, just as Jesus said." Amen.*

### SEVENTH LESSON

**John 19:38-42**, Bible page 1087

### LORD'S PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

#### CLOSING PRAYER

**M** Lord Jesus, at death, it seems the lights have gone out in our life. Help us see that death is just the preparation for the announcement that will be true of our grave too. Just as the angels said to the women, "He is not here! He has risen just as he said," so on the last day the angels will say of our graves. "They are not here! They have risen from the dead, just as Jesus said."

**C** **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. Amen.**

### TOLLING BELLS ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF CHRIST

*You are invited to remain in the semidarkness of the sanctuary and meditate on how the Savior has overcome the darkness for you. Then come back on Easter morning at 8:00, 9:30, or 11:00 am to celebrate that Jesus has risen, just as he said it would.*

# Welcome to St. Paul's!

St. Paul's is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who love each other and our community. Stop by the Welcome Center in the church entry for information about any of our ministries. An attendant will be there to answer your questions.

**Kids Are Welcome in Worship:** We encourage parents to bring their children into worship. From little on, children do learn in worship. We welcome some of the disruption children may bring. It is a sign of life in God's Church. We ask that the back pews in the church be reserved for parents with small children.

**For Small Children:** There is a "Mother's Room" where parents can go to quiet their children during the worship service. You can see and hear the service from there. This room is to your right as you leave the center doors of the sanctuary.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are to the left as you leave the sanctuary. There are also handicapped/family restrooms to the right as you leave the sanctuary.

**Special Needs:** Large-print worship folders are available. Please ask an usher for assistance. There is an audio loop system installed on the pulpit side (left side) of the sanctuary to be used with hearing aids.

## Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

Kids Club is our vibrant ministry for youth 3K through grade 5. All age levels meet in our school classrooms 9:30 – 10:30 am. Kids Club resumes on Sunday, April 7. New participants are always welcome. Register any Sunday morning in the Trinity Café, directly across the parking lot from the church, or visit [stpaulmuskego.org/kidsclub](http://stpaulmuskego.org/kidsclub).

## Easter Traditional Services, March 30 and 31

Saturday at 5:00 pm

Sunday at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am

## Easter Bridge Services, March 31

9:00 and 10:45 am (no Bridge Communion)

### ST. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL STAFF

Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	<a href="mailto:jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org">jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Worship and Counseling
Mr. Randy Fink	Ext. 120	<a href="mailto:rfink@stpaulmuskego.org">rfink@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Church Administrator
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	<a href="mailto:sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org">sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org</a>	School Administrator/Principal
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	<a href="mailto:dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org">dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Member Care
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Pastor Pete Panitzke	Ext. 122	<a href="mailto:ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org">ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Ministerial Team Leader
Mr. Paul Schuessler	Ext. 117	<a href="mailto:pschuessler@stpmuskego.org">pschuessler@stpmuskego.org</a>	Family Minister
Mrs. Heidi Schuh	Ext. 115	<a href="mailto:hschuh@stpmuskego.org">hschuh@stpmuskego.org</a>	Asst. Director of Worship Operations
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	<a href="mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org">nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Resident Missionary
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	<a href="mailto:swallner@stpaulmuskego.org">swallner@stpaulmuskego.org</a>	Community Outreach Coordinator
Mr. Mike Westendorf	Ext. 124	<a href="mailto:mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org">mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org</a>	Director of Worship Operations



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

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