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**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP**  
**TREE OF DEATH – TREE OF LIFE**  
April 18, 2025

*Tenebrae, which is 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 marvel at the depth of suffering our Savior was willing to experience so that we might never have to experience the depth of suffering we truly deserve.*

**TOLLING BELLS ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF CHRIST**

**A READING FROM ISAIAH 53**

M Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

M Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,  
C **yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.**

M But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;  
C **the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

M We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;  
C **and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

## CALL TO MEDITATION

## Sing, My Tongue the Glorious Battle

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;  
Sing the ending of the fray.  
Now above the cross, the trophy,  
Sound the loud triumphant lay.  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
As a victim won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness  
Of th' appointed time was come,  
He, the Word, was born of woman,  
Left for us his Father's home,  
Blazed the path of true obedience,  
Shone as light amidst the gloom.

Thus, with thirty years accomplished,  
He went forth from Nazareth,  
Destined, dedicated, willing,  
Did his work and met his death;  
Like a lamb he humbly yielded  
On the cross his dying breath.

Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,  
Be for all the noblest tree;  
None in foliage, none in blossom,  
None in fruit your equal be,  
Symbol of the world's redemption,  
For your burden makes us free.

## INTRODUCTION

### *A Tree of Life Becomes Our Tree of Death*

The tree of life with ev'ry good  
in Eden's holy orchard stood,  
and of its fruit so pure and sweet  
God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew  
another tree, of which they knew;  
its lovely limbs with fruit adorned  
against whose eating God had warned.

<sup>3</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

### Matthew 27:45, 46

**C** From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

**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.

**M** "In that day," declares the Sovereign Lord, "I will make the sun go down at noon

**C** and darken the earth in broad daylight."

**M** Lord Jesus, you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin, and call us to acknowledge the amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and give us grateful faith.

**C** Amen.

*The first candle is extinguished.*

**O sacred head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded, With thorns your only crown,  
O sacred head, no glory Now from your face does shine;  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call you mine.**

*Soloist*

My burden in your passion, Lord, you have borne for me,  
For it was my transgression, My shame, on Calvary.  
I cast me down before you; Wrath is my rightful lot.  
Have mercy, I implore you; Redeemer, spurn me not!

**What language shall I borrow To thank you, dearest Friend,  
For this, your dying sorrow, Your pity without end?  
Oh, make me yours forever, And keep me strong and true;  
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love for you.**

<sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

### Luke 23:32–34

**C Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.**

**M Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;**

**C They pierce my hands and my feet.**

**M They divide my garments among them**

**C and cast lots for my clothing.**

**M He bore the sin of many,**

**C and made intercession for the transgressors.**

**M Gracious Savior, you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern, and enlighten us to know and do your will.**

**C Amen.**

*The second candle is extinguished.*

**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?**

**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?**

The stillness of that sacred grove  
 was broken as the serpent strove  
     with tempting voice Eve to beguile  
     and Adam too by sin defile.  
 O day of sadness when the breath  
 of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
     its awful poison first displayed  
     within the world so newly made.

*<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

*<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

### **Luke 23:35–43**

**C**     The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**M**     All who see me mock me;

**C**     They hurl insults, shaking their heads.

**M**     "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him.

**C**     **him deliver him, since he delights in him."**

**M**     Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people.

**C**     **Come to my aid when you save them.**

**M**     Mighty Redeemer, remember us as we walk through the darkest valleys of life and realize that our time on earth is ending. Stay close to us when we feel the pain and loneliness of dying, and take away our fears with your certain promise of paradise.

**C**     **Amen.**

*The third candle is extinguished.*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God.  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

#### PART 4

#### Genesis 3:11-13, Perpetual Blame

<sup>11</sup> And [God] said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

#### John 19:25–27

**C** Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**M** This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,

**C** and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

**M** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.

**C** And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

**M** Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?

**C** Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

**M** Precious Jesus, you consider us friends and care about the needs of our bodies and souls. Keep us in your care as we walk the road of life, and provide the blessings we need to gain safety, contentment, and joy in your service.

**C** Amen.

*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown For my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

#### **A Tree of Death Becomes Our Tree of Life**

What mercy God showed to our race,  
a plan of rescue by his grace,  
in sending One from woman's seed,  
the One to fill our greatest need —  
for on a tree uplifted high  
his only Son for sin would die,  
would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
to crush the ancient serpent's head!

#### **PART 5**

#### **Genesis 3:14-15, Satan Crushed**

<sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,  
"Cursed are you above all livestock  
and all wild animals!  
You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.  
<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

John 19:28, 29

**C** After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

**M** My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

**C** **you lay me in the dust of death.**

**M** I am worn out calling for help;

**C** **my throat is parched.**

**M** They put gall in my food

**C** **and gave me vinegar for my thirst.**

**M** Dear Jesus, as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. But on the cross you suffered so much more. Thank you, sweet Jesus, for carrying the burden of our sins to hell and back. Fill our hearts with eternal gratitude for the sacrifice you made for us.

**C** **Amen.**

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

**Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sov'reign die?**

**Would he devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut its glories in**

**When God, the mighty Maker, died For his own creatures' sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face While his dear cross appears,**

**Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears.**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;**

**Here, Lord, I give myself away -- 'Tis all that I can do.**

<sup>16</sup> *To the woman he said,  
"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;  
with painful labor you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you."*

<sup>17</sup> *To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'  
"Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life.*

<sup>18</sup> *It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

<sup>19</sup> *By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return."*

**John 19:30**

**C** When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **"It is finished."**

M On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,  
**C to cleanse them from sin and impurity.**

M Because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
**C I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.**

M I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.  
**C I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**

M Gracious Redeemer, you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil's claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our entire confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace.

**C Amen.**

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

Now from that tree of Jesus' shame  
flows life eternal in his name;  
for all who trust and will believe,  
salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet  
the Lord invites the world to eat,  
to find within this cross of wood  
the tree of life with ev'ry good.

**C** *It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."*

*The Christ Candle is removed.*

*Strepitus*

*Silence for meditation.*

*The Christ Candle is returned (in anticipation of his resurrection and ours).*

**M** God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** **Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

**C** **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 Eve at 5:00 pm or 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 27. 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, April 19 and 20

Saturday at 5:00 pm

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

## Easter Bridge Services, April 20

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

## ST. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL STAFF

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Worship and Counseling
Church Administrator
School Administrator/Principal
Youth Minister
Member Care
Ministerial Team Leader
Asst. Director of Worship Operations
Resident Missionary
Community Outreach Coordinator
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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