



Order of Online Worship

Good Friday Tenebrae

April 10th, 2020

To follow along with this Order of Worship, go to stjlc.com/online-worship. In this service, seven candles are lit and extinguished one by one. If you have seven candles in your home, you are welcome to do this yourself at the appropriate times. There will also be candles in the video.

Welcome and Invocation

P Gracious God, Your righteous Son, Jesus Christ, was persecuted for us, enduring every insult, being falsely accused, suffering unimaginable evil and dying on the cross, that we might be forgiven of all our sins. As we contemplate His final hours, move us to such devotion that we gladly serve You with all our hearts, being filled with the fruits of the Spirit by faith, that the whole world might know of Your love and believe in Your Son. In His name, ever one God with You and the Holy Spirit, we pray.

C Amen

First Readings

Reader 2: Then the one called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand Him over.

**Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yes! All the wrath, the woe Thou dost inherit,
This I do merit!**

Reader 2 : While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The One I kiss is the Man; arrest Him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Jesus replied,

Reader 1: "Friend, do what you came for."

Reader 2 : Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus said to him,

Reader 1: "Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

Reader 2: (Then) Jesus said to the crowd,

Reader 1: "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture Me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest Me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Reader 2: Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

**The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed!**

Reader 2: Those who had arrested Jesus took Him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. But Peter followed Him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.' "

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are You not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against You?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to Him, "I charge You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied,

Reader 1: "Yes, it is as you say, but I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of

Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Reader 2: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

Then they spit in His face and struck Him with their fists. Others slapped Him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

Reader 3: But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

Reader 2: Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Reader 3: He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the Man!"

Reader 2: After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

Reader 3: Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the Man!"

Reader 2: Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound Him, led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor.

Now Jesus stood before the governor and it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them,

Reader 3: "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called

Christ?" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

Reader2: While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent Man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of Him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

Reader 3: "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

Reader 2: "Barabbas," they answered.

Reader 3: "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

Reader 2: They all answered, "Crucify Him!"

Reader 3: "Why? What crime has He committed?" asked Pilate.

Reader 2: But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him!"

Reader 3: When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this Man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

Reader 2: All the people answered, "Let His blood be on us and on our children!"

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. "Hail, King of the Jews!" they said. They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the head again and again. After they had mocked Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

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

**They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee!**

Reader 2: As they were going out to crucify Jesus, who was carrying His cross, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it. When they had crucified Him, they divided up His clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. Above His head they placed the written charge against Him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.

Reader 3: Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! Come down from the cross, if You are the Son of God!"

Reader 2 "In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked Him. "He saved others," they said, "but He can't save Himself! He's the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him.

Reader 3: You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself!

Reader 2: Come down from the cross if You are the Son of God!

Reader 3: He saved others but He cannot save Himself!

Reader 2: Let Him come down now from the cross and we will believe in Him!

Reader 3: He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said "I am the Son of God."

Sermon - Pastor David Wackenhuth

+ The First Word from the Cross +

The first candle is extinguished

Reader 4: Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals--one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said,

Reader 1: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

**Our Savior speaks in grace
With words of mercy true:
"Forgive them, Father," thus he prays;
"They know not what they do."**

+ The Second Word from the Cross +

The second candle is extinguished

Reader 5: One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: "Aren't You the Christ? 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,

Reader 1: "Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me In paradise."

**His wondrous pity see!
Unto the thief he cries:
"Today, I tell you, you will be
With me in paradise."**

+ The Third Word from the Cross +

The third candle is extinguished

Reader 6: 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 His mother,

Reader 1: "Woman, behold your son,"

Reader 6: and to the disciple,

Reader 1: "Behold your mother."

Reader 6: From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**To Mary, looking on,
"Behold your son," he says.
"Behold your mother," thus on John
Love's burden gently lays.**

+ The Fourth Word from the Cross +
The fourth candle is extinguished

Reader 7: From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

Reader 1: "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-- "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Reader 7: When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

**Now hear the awful cry,
Sin's dreadful burden see.
"My God, my God," the Son shouts, "Why
Have you forsaken me?"**

+ The Fifth Word from the Cross +
The fifth candle is extinguished

Reader 8: Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said,

Reader 1: "I thirst."

Reader 8: 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.

**As one of us he dies.
Sin's pow'r has done its worst.
From hell's dread agony he cries
A simple word: "I thirst."**

+ The Sixth Word from the Cross +
The sixth candle is extinguished

Reader 9: When He had received the drink, Jesus said,

Reader 1: *"It is finished."*

Reader 9: *With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*

**"'Tis finished," says the Lord.
The burden on him laid
Of sinful thought and deed and word--
The debt is fully paid.**

+ The Seventh Word from the Cross +
The Christ candle is removed

Reader 10: *It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice,*

Reader 1: *"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."*

Reader 10: *When He had said this, He breathed His last.*

When the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard His cry and saw how He died, he said, "Surely this Man was the Son of God!"

**"Father, into your hands
My spirit I commend."
And he who hears and understands
Receives him at the end.**

+ Righteousness Buried +

Reader 11: *Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.*

Hymn: Were You There

Verse 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?

Verse 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?

Verse 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?

Lord's Prayer - *Traditionally on Good Friday, the Lord's Prayer is said in a whisper.*

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.