

WPC GOOD FRIDAY - March 29, 2024

Service of Tenebrae with *Chorales from the St. John Passion*

Worship Notes

The Good Friday service is a penitential service, yet it is also a celebration of the good news of the cross. The passion narrative according to John is read on Good Friday because at the heart of John's passion narrative is the good news of the cross — the victory of the cross. Thus, John's emphasis on crucifixion and glory corresponds to the tension and ambiguity of the day.

Each dramatized scripture reading from the Gospel of John is accompanied by one of the chorales, or hymns, from the St. John Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). This setting of the passion is the older of two such works composed by Bach and it was first performed in Leipzig, Germany in April 1724. Therefore, in 2024 we observe the 300th anniversary of its first use in a Good Friday vespers service. Each chorale is a hymn tune and text that was familiar to congregations in Bach's time. The choir will sing each chorale in English using a setting by Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1962).

Throughout the worship service, you will sense a purposeful cadence of scripture, silence, and music. After each reading, we will extinguish a candle as the "shadows" slowly envelop the sanctuary. Although music plays an essential role, this is a worship service and not a performance. Therefore, you are encouraged to embrace its worshipful solemnity by respecting the silences.

After the prayers, and after all light has been removed, you are invited to sustain the spirit of silence as you depart the sanctuary. In this way, this worship service has no formal ending and, instead, continues until we gather next on Easter morning. We pray that you may hear and receive God's word proclaimed through scripture and song as we gather this night.



Service of Tenebrae with Chorales from the St. John Passion
March 29, 2024 at 7:00pm

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

THE SILENT PROCESSION

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Surely he has borne our griefs

People: **and carried our sorrows;**

Leader: yet we esteemed him stricken,

People: **smitten by God, and afflicted.**

Leader: Let us pray.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (in unison)

Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross. Save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing him who died for us, we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 220**

Go to Dark Gethsemane, Redhead 76¹

PROCLAIMING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Holy God, our hope and strength, we give thanks for your Word made flesh - for the life that death cannot destroy, and for the light that darkness cannot overcome. Enlighten our minds and enliven our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may testify to your light share the life of Christ with a hurting world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST LESSON: John 18:1-8

Chorale: *O Wondrous Love!*,
J.S. Bach*

O wondrous love! O love divine, unbounded!
You chose a painful road, by hate surrounded.
I live for all the joys this world can offer,
but you must suffer.

THE SECOND LESSON: John 18: 9-11

Chorale: *Your Gracious Will on Earth Be Done*,
J.S. Bach*

Your gracious will on earth be done as there in heaven before your throne,
that firm in faith we may remain in time of joy and time of pain.
Curb flesh and blood and every ill that sets itself against your will.

THE THIRD LESSON: John 18:12-23

Chorale: *Who Is the One?*,
J.S. Bach*

Who is the one that beats you?
My Savior, who mistreats you, that torment is your lot?
For you are no offender, yet we to sin surrender.
You are as pure as we are not.
I, I and my offenses—like ocean's wide expanses, like sands upon the shore -
I caused your grief and sighing, your suffering and your dying.
My sin is vast; your love is more.

THE FOURTH LESSON: John 18:24-27

Chorale: *Peter Did Not Recognize*,
J.S. Bach*

Peter did not recognize his foretold denial;
then he met his Savior's eyes, wept in bitter trial.
Jesus, look upon me still, though repentance fail me;
when my evil causes ill, stir my conscience, heal me.

Chorale: *Christ, Whose Blessing Makes Us Right*,
J.S. Bach*

Christ, whose blessing make us right, sin had not enraptured;

Help us, Christ, O Son of God, through your bitter anguish,
that misdeeds we would avoid, nor in vices languish.
Your blest death, and why you died, help us to consider,
that, though poor, we may abide, offering thanks forever!

THE ELEVENTH LESSON: John 19:38-42

Chorale: *O Lord, Your Loving Angel Send,*
J.S. Bach*

O Lord, your loving angel send to bear me home,
when life shall end, held close in Abraham's keeping.
My body, slumbering in its place, safe from all pain,
shall rest in peace till morn that ends all sleeping.
That day from death awaken me; let my own eyes your glory see:
my Joy, my All, God's only Son, Redeemer living, Grace enthroned!
Lord, Jesus Christ! Oh, hear my plea, oh hear my plea to sing your praise eternally!

THE PRAYERS

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*You are invited to remain seated and pray silently. When you are ready to depart,
please exit in silence. This worship service resumes on Easter Sunday morning.*

Personnel

Evangelist.....Pastor Scott Anderson
Jesus.....Chuck Kamp

Pilate.....Pastor Sandy Nuernberg

The Chancel Choir
Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music (and harpsichord)

<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Alto</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>
Meg Beally	Yong Joo Erwin	Bob Binhammer	Tom Iverson
Dorothy Blotz	Carol Lee Iverson	Dale Bjorling	Thatcher Root
Cynthia Bush	Kathy Kamp		Bud Smith
Kathy Key	Jean Loup		
Liane Kosaki	Ann Rowley		

The Yahara String Quartet:
Steve Kurr, violin Rebecca Hale, violin Nancy Kurr, viola Phila Poff, cello

*Texts from *Chorales from the St. John Passion*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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