



**Tenebrae Service**  
**April 15, 2022**

# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Bowling Green, KY 42101

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[www.holytrinity-lc.org](http://www.holytrinity-lc.org)

The Sermons are archived on our website.  
Check it out if you want to revisit the message.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**  
**Ignite! & Bible Classes: 9:15 a.m.**

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Paul writes: “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).  
For this reason we worship and remember.

**TO OUR VISITORS:** We are delighted that you have joined us tonight.

We pray that the service blesses you and invite you to worship with us again. If you are seeking a church family or would like to know more about Holy Trinity, please contact the Church Office at (270) 843-9595. We are here to serve you. Please use the attendance insert to provide your **Email, mailing address and phone number** so that we might extend a special welcome.

**A NURSERY** is available for infants up to children starting Kindergarten.

Exit the sanctuary to the rear, and follow the hallway to the left, then turn at the first hallway to the right. Parents are welcome to worship with their children, but please use the nursery as needed. If you have any questions regarding the nursery please contact Laurie Seavey at (270) 991-1172.

**NOTE:** There is also a “nursing/cry room” just before the hallway to the nursery.

### **CELEBRATING CHILDREN AT HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest:

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome.
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastor, deacons, readers, acolytes, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to Me.”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

**TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLY TRINITY:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing. Please welcome all children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**WORSHIP BAGS** for our young worshipers are located in the Narthex.  
Please use these as needed during worship.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available from the Ushers.

**"TENEBRAE"  
THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF DARKNESS  
April 15, 2022**

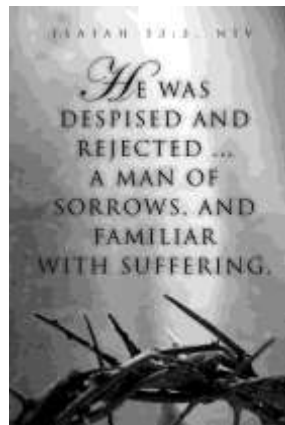
**AS WE GATHER**

Christians around the world gather on this solemn day to remember the greatest sacrifice of love the world has ever seen. Even the anticipated celebration of our Lord's resurrection cannot diminish the horror at the sight of the very Son of God hanging on a cross in our place - stricken, smitten, and afflicted for us and for our salvation, because of our sin. In quiet reflection we ponder the great cost by which we receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**PRESERVICE MUSIC**

**THE SILENT PROCESSIONAL**

(3)



## THE CHORAL ANTHEM

Sanctuary Praise Choir

“Not My Will, But Thine”

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Heavenly Father we come to worship our Lord.

**People: We remember though He was rich, for our sakes  
He became poor and dwelt among us.**

Liturgist: We worship the Lord with solemn joy.

**People: We remember He carried out His Father’s will for us.**

Liturgist: O come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before  
the Lord our Maker.

**People: Let us never forget, He died so that we might live,  
now and forever with Him.**

We stand for

## THE OPENING HYMN

L.S.B. #560

“Drawn To The Cross, Which You Have Blessed”

Genevieve M. Irons & Joseph Barnby

- 1. Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in Thee my life, my rest,  
Christ Crucified, I come.**

(CONTINUED)

(4)

**2. Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,  
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;  
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,  
Christ Crucified, I come.**

**3. Wash me and take away each stain;  
Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing, though it be through pain,  
Christ Crucified, I come.**

**4. And then for work to do for Thee,  
Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me,  
Christ Crucified, I come.**

## **THE CONFESSION OF SINS**

**All: Gracious Father, be merciful to me for I am a rebellious and sinful person. I have disobeyed Your commandments by thought, word, and deed. My pride has dominated my life. I have too often made selfish decisions because it was what I wanted to do, knowing it was not what You would have me to do. O Lord, I am truly sorry for my sins, and I do repent for all that I have done to cause You hurt. Especially, these sins I now confess in silence to You....**

*(Silent Reflection.)*

## THE ABSOLUTION

Pastor: On this Good Friday, I again bring you tidings of great joy, because of what Jesus did, I can tell you and the whole world, we are forgiven of all our sins, past, present, and future. We are declared right with God. The ransom has been paid, we are free of all condemnation. Now go and worship in the peace of the Lord.

## A HYMN OF CHRIST'S LOVE

L.S.B. #451

"Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted"  
Thomas Kelly

- 1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See Him dying on the tree!  
`Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, `tis He, `tis He!  
`Tis the long-expected Prophet,  
David's son, yet David's Lord.  
Proofs I see sufficient of it:  
`Tis the true and faithful Word.**
- 2. Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,  
Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends through fear His cause disowning,  
Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him,  
None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him  
Was the stroke that justice gave.**

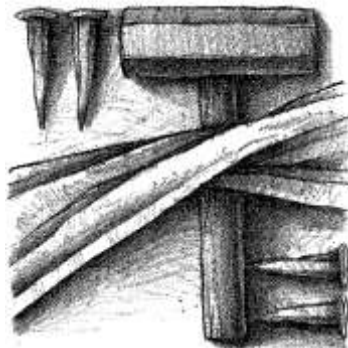
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(6)

**3. Ye who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed;  
See who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,  
Son of Man and Son of God.**

**4. Here we have a firm foundation;  
Here the refuge of the lost;  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,  
Is the name of which we boast.  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,  
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded  
Who on Him their hope have built.**

## **THE GATHERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**



He was wounded for our  
transgressions, crushed  
for our iniquities...

(7)

Isalah 53:5, NRSV



## FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

### THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from chapters 52 and 53 of Isaiah.

<sup>13</sup> Behold, my servant shall act wisely;  
he shall be high and lifted up,  
and shall be exalted.

<sup>14</sup> As many were astonished at you—  
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

<sup>15</sup> so shall he sprinkle many nations.  
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,  
for that which has not been told them they see,  
and that which they have not heard they understand.

**53** Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

(CONTINUED)

(8)

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?

<sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

**(CONTINUED)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out his soul to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE EPISTLE READING

**Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from chapters 4 and 5  
of Hebrews.

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**5** <sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD – HIS FINAL WORDS

- Liturgist: And when they came to the place called Calvary, they crucified Him. Then Jesus said:  
**People:** **“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”**
- Liturgist: When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple standing by whom He loved, He said:  
**People:** **“Woman behold thy son! Son, behold thy mother!”**
- Liturgist: One of the malefactors crucified with Him said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.”  
**People:** **“Verily, I say unto thee, today thou shalt be with Me in Paradise.”**
- Liturgist: There was a darkness over all the earth and about the ninth hour He cried with a loud voice:  
**People:** **“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”**
- Liturgist: After this, Jesus knowing all things were now complete for the Scriptures to be fulfilled, said,  
**People:** **“I thirst!”**
- Liturgist: When Jesus, therefore, had received the vinegar, He said,  
**People:** **“It is finished!”**
- Liturgist: It was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in two from top to bottom. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice:  
**People:** **“Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit!”**
- Liturgist: Thus ends the passion of our Lord.

"Savior, When in Dust to Thee"  
Robert Grant

1. **Savior, when in dust to Thee  
Low we bow th'adoring knee,  
When, repentant, to the skies  
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes,  
Oh, by all Thy pains and woe  
Suffered once for man below,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our solemn litany!**
  
2. **By Thy helpless infant years,  
By Thy life of want and tears,  
By Thy days of sore distress  
In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour  
Of th'insulting Tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, O turn, a fav'ring eye,  
Hear our solemn litany!**
  
3. **By Thine hour of dire despair,  
By Thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies  
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble cry,  
Hear our solemn litany!**

(CONTINUED)

**4. By Thy deep expiring groan,  
By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode  
Held in vain the rising God,  
Oh, from earth to heav'n restored,  
Mighty, reascended Lord,  
Listen, listen, to the cry,  
Hear our solemn litany!**

Please stand for  
**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 27:57-66**

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,  
the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' <sup>64</sup> Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

**(CONTINUED)**

(13)

<sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

**Reader:** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**People:** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

**THE SERMON**

**Pastor Press**

**“A Rocky Enclosure”**  
**Text: Matthew 27:57-66**



# **THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE**

## ***The Darkness of the Upper Room*** **Matthew 26:17-25**

<sup>17</sup> Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup> He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" <sup>19</sup> And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup> And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?"

<sup>23</sup> He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup> Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

## **THE RESPONSIVE HYMN**

L.S.B. #431

"Not All The Blood Of Beasts"

Isaac Watts & William Daman

**1. Not all the blood of beasts  
On Jewish altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace  
Or wash away the stain.**

**(CONTINUED)**

(15)



**2. But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,  
Takes all our sins away;  
A sacrifice of nobler name  
And richer blood than they.**

***The Darkness of Gethsemane***  
**Matthew 26:36-46**

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them [the disciples] to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping.

And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

"Go To Dark Gethsemane"  
James Montgomery & Richard Redhead

**1. Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**2. Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.**

***The Darkness of the Trial***  
**Matthew 26:59-68**

<sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup> And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

**(CONTINUED)**

(17)

<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." <sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

## THE RESPONSIVE HYMN

L.S.B. #439

"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"  
Johann Herrmann & Johann Cruger

**1. 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?**

**5. 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.**

## ***The Darkness of the Way*** **Luke 23:26-43**

<sup>26</sup> And as they [the guards] led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup> But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup> For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

Thomas B. Pollock & Bernhard Schumacher

**1. Jesus, in Your dying woes,  
Even while Your life-blood flows,  
Craving pardon for Your foes:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**4. Jesus, pitying the sighs  
Of the thief, who near You dies,  
Promising him paradise:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

***The Darkness of the End***  
**Luke 23:44-49**

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” <sup>48</sup> And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(Whispered Softly)

**All: 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.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Pastor Press**

"Were You There?"

## **THE REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

At this time the central candle, the Christ candle, is removed from the altar and taken entirely out of the chancel area. At this point the presence of total darkness symbolizes the wrath of God – the outer darkness, the hopelessness of mankind without light. When the organ music is finished, the Christ candle is returned to the altar, symbolizing Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, has not been defeated by Satan, but has overcome the darkness, sin, death, and the devil.



## **THE NAILS** - Please remain seated and quiet.

The nail is a tapered shaft from 5"-7" long and about 3/8" across. The mallet falls, pounding the spike through Jesus' flesh and deep into the wood of the cross. With every blow of the mallet, the judgment of the world fell on just one Man. Hanging there between heaven and earth, Jesus became the sole reconciling force between God and every human being. With His own blood, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and drew us all back under the covering of grace.

Michael Card

## **THE BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**People:** **Amen.**

***The last candle is carried out.***

***During the darkness the congregation is invited to meditate silently on Christ's suffering and death.***

***After a time, a loud noise symbolizes the earthquake at the time of Christ's death.***

***After the loud noise, the candle is returned to its place, symbolizing that our redemption is complete.***

***The congregation, after a silent prayer, may leave the church in silence.***

***Please talk to no one.***

***Please try to maintain your silence until you reach your home.***

***In the quietness of your car ponder the work of Christ.***

***Give thanks to Almighty God for His plan of Salvation – The Innocent Savior – the First Good Friday.***





## **THE PARADOXES OF CHRIST**

He was the Light, yet He hung in darkness on the cross.

He was the Life, yet He poured out His soul unto death.

He was the Rock of Ages, yet His feet sank into the deep waters.

He was the Son of God, yet He died a felon's death.

He knew no sin, yet He took our place and suffered in our stead.

He invited the weary to come to Him for rest, yet on earth He could find none for Himself.

He was the Mighty God, yet He became a Servant.

He spoke and it was done, yet He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.

He was the Desire of All Nations, yet He was despised and rejected.

He was the Fountain of Life, yet upon the cross He cried, "I thirst."



Saturday of Holy Week is a strange day for the church. It's sandwiched between Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross, and Easter, when He rose.

Certainly, we know the truth and triumph of the resurrection, but until Jesus comes again, we're living in Saturday. The Lamb of God has been sacrificed, and the curtain of sin that separated us from God has been torn down. Yet we're still looking forward to — as Jesus said — the renewal of all things.

Although we may be battered and bruised, stumbling, limping or crawling, we shouldn't wallow in defeat. Instead, we can be confident in the victory Jesus won for us. We can shout with Paul, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

While you look back to Friday and forward to Sunday, live victoriously in Saturday. Jesus has won and has run the victory lap...and He's coming around again.

—Gregg McCaslin



## Easter Sunday *Breakfast*

**THE KITCHEN IS OPEN!!!**

Next Sunday, April 17

7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

**Breakfast will be served between the Easter services.**  
(We won't have Ignite! nor Youth Bible Classes. Adult Class will meet.)

On the menu: Pancakes, eggs, and all the fixin's!

All donations will benefit the National Youth Gathering trip.

**Easter Egg Hunt** on Sunday, April 17  
beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please meet in the  
Fellowship Hall.

**Children** – bring your baskets and hunt for eggs!  
Contact Jonah Kaufmann if you have questions.

**NOTE:** There is a box in the Narthex for donations  
of candy. We would appreciate donations of  
individually wrapped candy.



*Worship With Us  
This Easter*



*All events are at our Bowling Green site unless otherwise noted.*

Saturday, April 16

**Smiths Grove Bible Study**

4:00 p.m.

**Smiths Grove Easter Vigil Worship - C**

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

**Easter Sunrise Service**

6:30 a.m.

**Easter Breakfast (FH)**

7:00-10:00 a.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

9:30 a.m.

**Easter Services – C**

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

(Ignite! & Youth Classes will NOT meet on Easter Sunday)