

Good Friday

Tenebrae Service



April 18, 2025

As the Triduum* continues, the congregation enters *in silence*.

Opening Responsory

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C: He was delivered up to death; he was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C: He was delivered up to death; he was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C: He was delivered up to death; he was delivered for the sins of the people.

Hymn: "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" # 440

Verses 1-2, 4, 6

Homily

Pastor Squire

+ The Tenebrae +

Readings from Luke 22:39-23:56

Jesus prays in the Darkness - Luke 22:39-46

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

A candle is extinguished.

Response "Go to Dark Gethsemane" # 436

Verses 1-3

Betrayal in the Darkness - Luke 22:47-53

While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with

you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

A candle is extinguished.

Response: "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" # 451

Denial in the Darkness - Luke 22:54-62

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not."

And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

A candle is extinguished.

Response: "O Dearest Jesus" # 439

Verses 1, 3-4, 6, 14

Trials in the Darkness - Luke 22:63 - 23:25

Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer.

But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?"

And he said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he

questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.

And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him." But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas" - a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

A candle is extinguished

Response: "Christ the Life of All the Living" # 420

Verses 1, 4-7

Mocked in the Darkness - Luke 23:26-43

And as they 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. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 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!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 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. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

And they cast lots to divide his garments. 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!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when

you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

A candle is extinguished.

Response: "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" # 438
Verses 1-3

Death in the Darkness - Luke 23:44-49

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

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. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

A candle is extinguished.

Response: "Upon the Cross Extended" # 453
Verses 1, 3, 5, 7

Buried in the Darkness- Luke 23:50-56

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

A candle is extinguished.

Response: "O Darkest Woe" # 448

The final candle is now removed from the altar. A loud noise, called the *strepitus*, is heard, signifying the shutting of the tomb of Christ.

The Darkness Cannot Overcome - John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his

name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" # 434

*During the Agnus Dei, the final candle, still lit,
symbolic of Christ's victorious life,
is brought back to be placed on the altar.*

+ All may pause for reflection, then may leave in silence +

Bulletin Cover Explanation

“Full of Eyes” – Artist Christopher Powers

John 1:5 - “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome [comprehended] it.”

An interpretive question we must ask when we come to this passage is what we understand “κατέλαβεν” (translated either “overcome” or “comprehend”) to mean. The word appears again in John’s gospel only in 12:35 where the meaning seems to be “overcome.”

However, it is not beyond John to intend both meanings and by choosing this ambiguous word, he may intend us to read here that the darkness did not comprehend the light (i.e., did not see God in Jesus) and that the darkness was not able to overcome Jesus (i.e., at the crucifixion). Now, if this is the case, John may be very elegantly alluding the climax of the Gospel with this single word here in the fifth verse of his book.

The world did not comprehend God in Christ, and therefore they crucified Him (tried to overcome Him), but that crucifixion (the attempted over-coming of God in Jesus carried out because they did not grasp the revelation of God in Jesus), far from overcoming the light, actually becomes the supreme shining of the Light into the darkness, the supremely radiant revelation of God in Christ (John 13:31-32).

Thus - when seen through the lens of the resurrection - the moment of the darkness’ ultimate incomprehension of the Father in the Son, which leads to the darkness’ ultimate attempt to overcome the Light, is simultaneously the moment in which the Light of the Father manifested in the Son shines out with definitive, unconquered brilliance.

By using this word, then, John may be leading us already into the mystery of the crucifixion. What is the crucifixion? It is the ultimate instance of the darkness’ attempt to overcome the Light flowing from the darkness’ incomprehension of the Light.... What is the crucifixion? It is the ultimate instance of the Light’s victory over the darkness, leading to the ultimate shining of the Light into that darkness.

And because of this decisive moment - wherein darkness failed to grasp the light of God in Jesus, and the light of God in Jesus shone with greatest, unveiled brilliance into the darkness - because of this decisive moment, that same light is now shining - unconquered, unconquerable, all the brighter when not understood by the darkness into which it continually shines..... And John understands his Gospel itself to be a continuation of that shining.....this gospel IS the Light still shining in the darkness.....