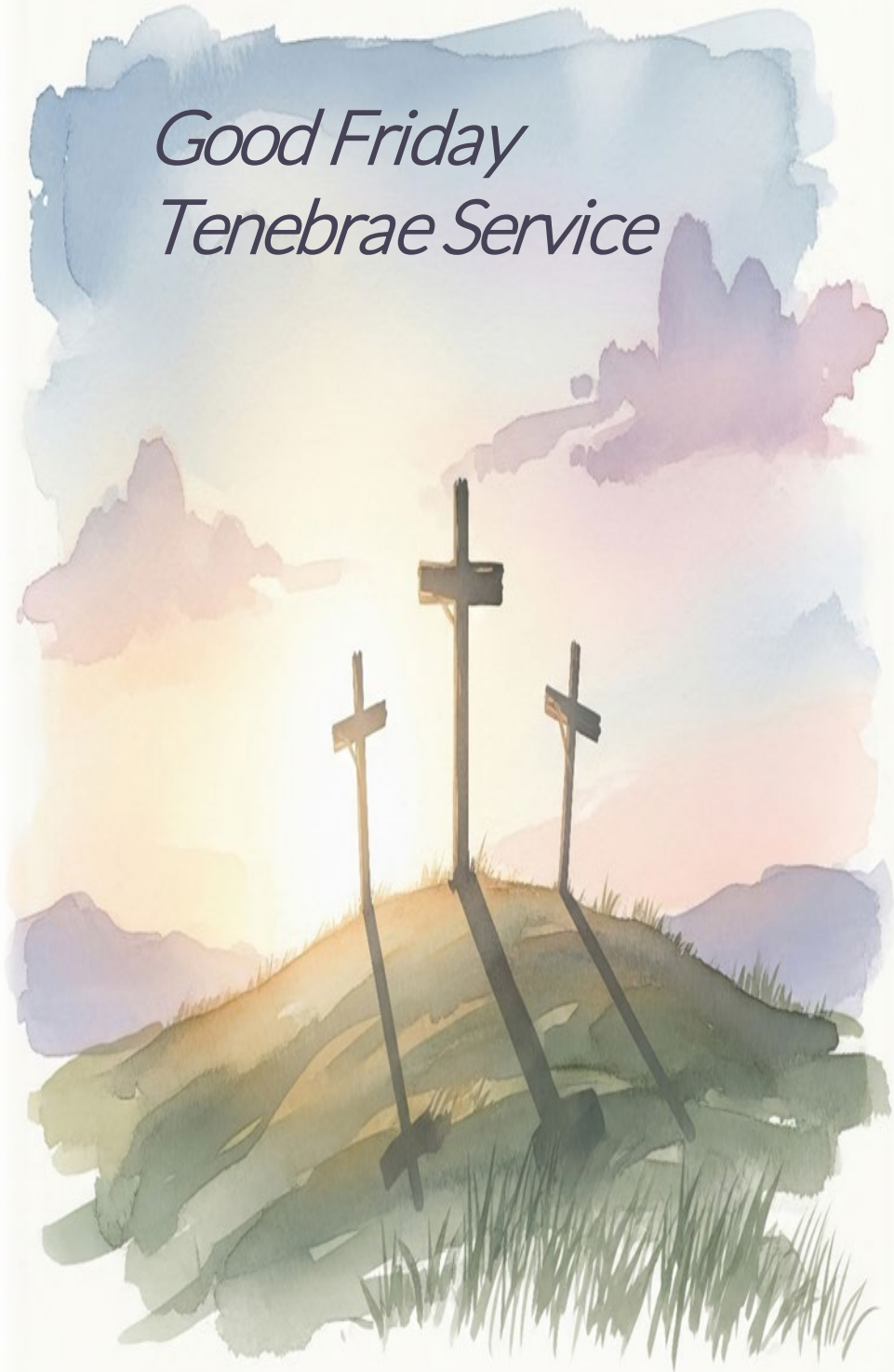


*Good Friday
Tenebrae Service*



Mount Horeb Community

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3, 2026 - 1:00 pm - ELC of Mount Horeb

Sponsored by the Mt. Horeb Area Ministerial Association

Today's service is referred to as a Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") service. The Tenebrae commemorates the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The extinguishing of the candles recalls the darkening shadows of Calvary as Jesus' life was slowly extinguished, as well as the flight and denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus. In this darkness, there is but one light—the eternal light of Christ. The eighth and final candle is called the Christ (or Pascal) candle. It represents our Savior, whom even death could not finally defeat!

GATHERING LITANY

Let us remember Jesus, who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us; who was mighty in deed, healing the sick and the troubled; who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.

Let us remember Jesus, who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him; who loved all people and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him; who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God.

May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.

Let us remember Jesus, who humbled himself, obedient unto death, even death on a cross. God has exalted him who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom.

May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS –

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up and shall be very high. ¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1} Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of

the LORD been revealed? ² 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, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity, and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴ Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹ They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with affliction. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out himself to death and was numbered with the transgressors, yet he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

Hebrews 10:16-25

[After the Holy Spirit says,] ¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” ¹⁷ and he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet

together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

HYMN #338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"
***Offering will be received**

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

IN THE GARDEN – John 18:1-12

#347 "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (vs. 1-2)

**The first candle is extinguished*

PETER'S DENIAL – John 18:13-27

#349 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (vs. 1-3)

**The second candle is extinguished*

TRIAL BEFORE PILATE – John 18-28-38a

"Weeping Over Jerusalem" ELC Praise Team

**The third candle is extinguished*

CRUCIFY HIM! – John 18:38b–19:16a

#351 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (vs. 1-3)

**The fourth candle is extinguished*

THE WAY OF THE CROSS – John 19:16b-25a

"Thy Will Be Done" ELC Senior Choir

**The fifth candle is extinguished*

IT IS FINISHED! – John 19:25b-37

#353 "Were You There" (vs. 1-3)

**The sixth candle is extinguished*

THE BURIAL – John 19:38-42

#353 "Were You There" (vs. 4-5)

**The seventh candle is extinguished*

PRAYERS IN LITANY FORM

Giver of life, we wait with you to offer the hope that comes from the cross to earth's darkest places. Where pain is deep, and love is denied: **let love break through.**

Where justice is destroyed, **let sensitivity to what is right spring up.**

Where hope is crucified, **let faith persist.**

Where peace has no chance, **let passion live on.**

Where truth is trampled underfoot, **let the struggle continue.**

Where fear paralyzes, **let forgiveness break through.**

Eternal God, reach into the silent darkness of our souls with the radiance of the cross. You who are the bearer of all pain, **have mercy on us.**

Give us life, **have mercy on us.**

Merciful God, **have mercy on us. Amen.**

PROCESSION TO THE CROSS

Behold, the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

HYMN *“The Old Rugged Cross”* (insert)

***You may come to the cross to make a sign of reverence—simply pause before the cross, bow or kneel before it in prayer—as you remember Christ’s death for you.*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

CLOSING PRAYER

O Christ, Lamb of God, on this day we offer you the adoration of our hearts, for on the cross you reveal your suffering love. May we who celebrate the triumph of the cross receive the assurance of your victory over death and the hope of the resurrection, for you live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

Depart in silence as you contemplate the sacrifice of Christ our Lord... and await the dawn of Easter morn...

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS



1. On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross, The
 2. O that old rug-ged cross, so de-spised by the world, Has a
 3. In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di-vine, A
 4. To the old rug-ged cross, I will ev-er be true, Its

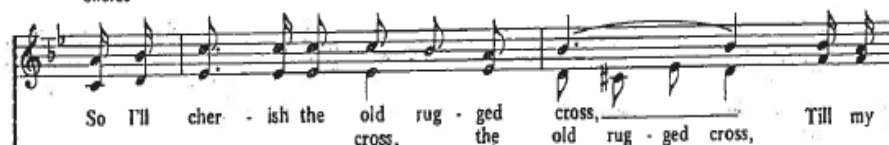


em-blem of suf-fring and shame;— And I love that old cross where the
 won-drous at-trac-tion for me;— For the dear Lamb of God left His
 won-drous beau-ty I see;— For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus
 shame and re-proach glad-ly bear;— Then He'll call me some day to my



dear-est and best For a world of lost sin-ners was slain.—
 glo-ry a-bove To— bear it to dark Cal-va-ry.—
 suf-fered and died To— par-don and sanc-ti-fy me.—
 home far a-way, Where His glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share.—

Chorus



So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged cross, Till my
 cross, the old rug-ged cross,



tro-phies at last I lay down;— I will cling to the old rug-ged
 cross, the



cross, ——— And ex-change it some day for a crown.—
 old rug-ged cross,