

Décor: 13 candles on table at front
3 readers (Scripture, prayers and Jesus' words)
PowerPoint

Friday, April 19, 2019
Tenebrae (service of darkness)
Osler Mennonite Church

We gather again on this Good Friday
 at the foot of the cross
 which call us on, not in shame or fear,
 but ever more deeply
 into the costly journey towards life.
 There is wounding and there is weeping.
 In Jesus Christ, God is not separated from that.

1. Jesus prays in the garden
 Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again, he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand,

and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Extinguish candle 1

Reader 2

"Stay awake with me." That's all you asked of us, Lord.

As you prayed and agonized over the choice your Father made for you, we slept.

You saw that the hour was at hand.

You saw that God's plan was in place.

You saw that your final journey had commenced.

Lord Jesus Christ,

alone and afraid;

You gave your life that we might live.

Hymn: #85 SS Lay down your head

2. Jesus is betrayed and arrested

Mark 14:43-50

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So, when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted and fled.

Extinguish candle 2

Reader 2 Betrayals lie like stones of death within us,
weighing down our lives with guilt or pain.
Our God, we carry our stones of betrayal
and lay them at the foot of the cross.

3. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

Matthew 26:57-68

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." 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."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Extinguish candle 3

Reader 2 Lord Jesus Christ,
taunted and accused;
You gave your life that we might live.

4. Peter denies knowing Jesus

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again, he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man!" At that moment, the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Extinguish candle 4

Reader 2 God in Christ,
you travel with us towards the most wounded places in our souls.
You know the agony of pain, guilt, and hurt deep within us
as we face the fact that we have betrayed others
or been betrayed ourselves.

HWB #240 Go to Dark Gethsemane

5. Jesus is condemned by Pilate

Luke 23:1-5; 13-25

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, 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 ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So, Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Extinguish candle 5

Reader 2 Lord Jesus Christ,
accused and condemned;
You gave your life that we might live.

6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

Matthew 27:24-31

So, when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” so he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Extinguish candle 6

Reader 2 Lord, we don't know what cup will be handed to us –
 A cup of joy or bitterness, or a cup of contentment or pain.
 We choose to accept the cup as you did,
 knowing that pain and grief and agony often fill the cup to the brim.
 As we feel the pain of illness, old age or accident;
 We know that your experience of pain eclipses ours.
 And as we feel the pain of grief or loss or failure,
 we know that your sorrow for us surpasses our pain.
 O Lord, may your spirit ease the prickling thorns of pain
 and weave a wreath of comfort out of our troubled thoughts.

7. Jesus takes up his cross

John 19:16-17

So, they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Extinguish candle 7

Silence

Reader 2 O Lord Jesus Christ, grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings.

Hymn #250 Beneath the cross of Jesus

8. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus

Mark 15:21-22

They compelled a passerby, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha.

Extinguish candle 8

Reader 2 Lord Jesus Christ,
You gave your life that we might live.

9. Jesus meets the weeping women

Luke 23:27-31

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, 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 this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Extinguish candle 9

Reader 2 Lord Jesus, we hope you were comforted by the women’s tears.
Did you see friends who loved you?
God has told us that “as a mother comforts her child,
So, I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”
Make us willing to comfort each other.
Lord Jesus Christ,
who sent us the Comforter;
You gave your life that we might live.

10. Jesus is crucified

Luke 23:32-38

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Messiah 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."

Extinguish candle 10

Reader 2

As we gather at the foot of the cross,
may we know your presence,
as we reflect upon this day
and the effect it has on our lives.

Grasping at your suffering
may we meet your willingness to walk on the boundaries of what is comfortable
that we might learn the lengths and depths of God's love.

Hymn #257 **Were you there?**

11. Jesus promises paradise to the crucified thief

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? 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 have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Extinguish candle 11

Reader 2 O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come.

12. Jesus cares for his mother

John 19:25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clops, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Extinguish candle 12

Reader 2 Jesus, when you died,
 Your mother may have remembered the words of Simeon in the temple:
 "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
 And to be a sign that will be opposed,
 So that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed
 And a sword will pierce your own soul too."
 O Blessed Savior, who in your hour of greatest suffering expressed
 compassion for your mother and arranged for her care, grant that we who
 seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others,
 reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this
 our prayer for your mercy's sake.

13. Jesus dies

Luke 23:44-49

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Extinguish Christ candle

Reader 2

Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love faithfully so that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness.

Lord Jesus Christ,
wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.

Hymn HWB#259 When I survey

14. Jesus is buried

John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so, he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Silence (screen is black)

Hymn HWB #257 Were you there...

Reader 2 It is time to leave this place.
Jesus said, "Father into your hands I commend my spirit."
In faith, we also commend ourselves into the hands of a loving God.
After we receive a blessing,
let us quietly leave this place together.

Sending forth

Go in peace, embraced in the love of Christ.
Walk deeply into your own lives, with all their frailties.
Discover, as you do that in spirit and in truth,
that you are walking towards the joy of Easter Day.

Amen