

**GOOD FRIDAY  
TENEBRAE SERVICE**

*April 03, 2026*

**First Saint John Lutheran Church  
Kensington, Kansas**



**When the centurion and those with him who were  
guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that  
had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed,  
“Surely he was the Son of God!” Matthew 27:54**



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Tenebrae Service 04-18-2025

The Service of fading lights

*Our service today is an adaptation of the ancient Tenebrae Service, dating from the 8th century. It is a service that moves from light to darkness, with the fading light symbolizing the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus.*



### PRELUDE

**INVOCATION:** (Please stand)

P. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**C. Amen.**

P. In you O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

**In your righteousness, deliver me.**

P. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!

**Be a Rock of Refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!**

P. Almighty God, our Father, help us to be mindful of those events that occurred in the life of Jesus during that last week in Jerusalem. As we become aware of the manner in which the disciples, the members of the crowd, and others failed him, we pray that you would quicken our hearts that we might not be guilty of the same sins today. Forgive us for those occasions when we have failed to give a strong witness for you, and so guide us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C. Amen.**

**WORDS OF PRAISE:** *The Triumphal Entry*

P. And when they drew near to Jerusalem, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples. And they went away, and found a colt tied and they untied it. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat upon it, and many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out:

**CONGREGATION:** "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Hosanna in the highest!"**

*(Please be seated)*



**HYMN;** #443 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (v. 1,2)

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## THE DARKNESS OF MISUNDERSTANDING

Words in the Temple:

P. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple. And He taught and said to them:

**JESUS:** "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

P. And the chief priests and scribes heard it and sought a way to destroy Him, for they feared Him, because all the multitude was astonished at His teaching. Then a voice came from heaven. The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Jesus answered:

**JESUS:** "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now shall the ruler of this world be cast out, and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

P. He said this to show what death He was to die. The crowd answered him:

**ALL:** We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is the Son of man?

**JESUS:** "The Light is with you a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light."

### Song; The Old Rugged Cross;

1. On a hill, far away -- stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain. **Chorus;**

2. O the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God, left His glory above,  
To bear it to dark Calvary. **Chorus;**

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross, Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me. **Chorus;**

*During the singing the first candle is extinguished;*

#### Chorus

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some-day for a crown.*

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## THE DARKNESS OF BETRAYAL

Words in the upper room: Matthew 26:20-28

**HYMN;#450** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (verses 1-3)

The second candle is extinguished;

## THE DARKNESS OF TEMPTATION

Words in Gethsemane: Matthew 26:30-31, 36-46

**The Offering will be received during the singing of this hymn.**

**HYMN:** "Nearer My God to Thee" (D)

1. Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee;  
E'en though it be a cross, that raiseth me!  
Still all my song shall be; Nearer, my God, to thee;  
Nearer, my God, to Thee; Nearer to Thee
2. Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
Yet in my dreams I'd be, Nearer, my God, to Thee;  
Nearer, my God, to Thee; Nearer to Thee
3. There let the way appear; steps unto heaven.  
All that Thou sendest me, in mercy given.  
Angels to beckon me, Nearer, my God to Thee;  
Nearer, my God, to Thee; Nearer to Thee.

The third candle is extinguished;

## THE DARKNESS OF INJUSTICE

Words of the trial: Mark 14: 53, 57-64; 15: 1-5 Luke 23: 7, 11

**HYMN: #744** "Amazing Grace"

The fourth candle is extinguished;

## THE DARKNESS OF DENIAL

Words in the courtyard: Mark 14: 66-72

**HYMN; #437** "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" (v. 1-3)

The fifth candle is extinguished;

The Reading; from Isaiah 53: P. He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

**C. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.**

P. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering; Like one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted.**

P. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed.

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

**THE MESSAGE;** Pastor Dave Hutson Psalm 22; Forsaken

## THE DARKNESS OF REJECTION

Words before Pilate:

P. Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers of the people, and said to them:

**PILATE:** *You brought me this man as one who was perverting 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. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore chastise him and release him.*

P. But they all cried out together:

**ALL: Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!**

P. Barabbas was 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 shouted out:

**ALL: Crucify him! Crucify him!**

**PILATE:** *Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving of death. I will therefore chastise him and release him.*

P. But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that He should be crucified:

**ALL: Crucify him! Crucify him!**

P. And their voices prevailed, so Pilate gave sentence that their demands should be granted.

Video; Ray Bolz - Watch The Lamb  
During the video, the sixth candle is extinguished.

**THE DARKNESS OF CALVARY;**

*The Sanctuary lights and the altar lights turned off.*

Words from the Cross Matthew 27:31-54

The seventh candle is extinguished;  
The Bible is closed symbolizing the fulfillment of Scripture; now complete,  
- - - -until His return!

Afterwards, the women will clear the altar. The altar lights will be turned off.

Closing Song in Darkness;

*“The Warrior”*

Following the song all leave the church silently and in darkness.

*Friday's Here,  
Sunday's Coming!*

*Easter Sunday plans;*

*Easter Sunrise; Saint John Cemetery*

*7:30 a.m.—breakfast to follow*

*First Saint John Easter Service;*

*10:00 a.m.*



*Come and see!!*

*He is Risen!!*

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

The sunrise service will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the St. John Cemetery.  
The short service will be followed by the Easter breakfast in the Parish Hall.

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**@ FIRST ST. JOHN - 10:00 A.M.**

**SEE YOU ON EASTER**

