



Good Friday Office of Tenebrae – April 3, 2026



As We Gather

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17

Tonight, we hear Jesus’ seven last words from the cross. These words mark Jesus’ final opportunities to teach those who would hear. As we reflect on Jesus’ Passion, may our faith be enlivened by Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we hear His words above the clamor of those in the world around us.

About A Tenebrae Service

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior’s sacrifice, the ancient Church held a special service in the last days in Holy week called Tenebrae. The word means “darkness”. This evening’s service is an adaption of the ancient order dating from the 8th century.

Throughout our service tonight, the candles around the altar will be extinguished to symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus.

One candle (the Christ candle) burns until the end of the service to symbolize that even in the midst of death and darkness, the forces of hell shall not prevail against the Light of Christ.

Preservice Prayer For Meditation

Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who hear your voice from the cross this day find new life in you now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Welcome

Invocation

Opening words

Congregation response in bold face type

Christ has emptied Himself and become obedient unto death;
even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

Behold the Lamb of God;
that takes away the sin of the world.
(John 1:29)

God forbid that I should glory
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through which the world has been crucified to me
and I have been crucified to the world.
(Galatians 6:14)

The Tenebrae Psalm Isaiah 53

Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the power of God been revealed?

God's Servant grew up before Him like a tender shoot and as a root out of dry ground.
He has no beauty or majesty that we should desire Him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
We hid our faces from Him: He was despised and we refused to recognize Him.

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.
Yet we considered Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities.

**The punishment that brought us peace
was upon Him and with His wounds we
are healed.**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have
turned everyone to his own way.

**And God has laid on Him the iniquity
of us all.**

He was oppressed, and He was afflicted,
yet He opened not His mouth.

**He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent
so He did not open His mouth.**

He poured out His life unto death and was
numbered with the transgressors.

**He bore the sins of many, and made
intercession for the transgressors.**

PASSION OF OUR LORD

The First Word

Hymn - Were You There LSB 456 - st. 1-3

Jesus' Words Luke 23:32-34

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And 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. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

The Words of The World and the Word of Jesus

"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

**"Father forgive them for they do not
know what they are doing."**

Meditation on the Word

Silence *First Candle is Extinguished*

The Second Word

Hymn - Jesus, Remember Me LSB 767 (2x)

Jesus' Words Luke 23:39-43

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

The Words of The World and the Word of Jesus

"Are you not the great Deliverer?
Then save yourself and us."

**"I tell you the truth, today you will
be with me in paradise."**

Meditation on the Word

Silence *Second Candle is Extinguished*

The Third Word

Hymn - Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

LSB 447 st. 7-9

Jesus' Words John 19:25-27

²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

**The Words of The World
and the Word of Jesus**

"His blood be upon us and upon our children."

**"Mother here is your son.
Here is your mother."**

Meditation on the Word

Silence *Third Candle is Extinguished*

The Fourth Word

Hymn - Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

LSB 437 st. 1 & 3

Jesus' Words Matthew 27:45-49

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried

out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

**The Words of The World
and the Word of Jesus**

"Did He trust in God? Let God deliver Him if He wants Him, for He said He was God's Son."

**"My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?"**

Meditation on the Word

Silence *Fourth Candle is Extinguished*

The Fifth Word

Hymn - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 426. st. 1 & 3

Jesus' Words John 19:28

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

**The Words of The World
and the Word of Jesus**

"He saved others, but He cannot save Himself."
"I thirst."

Meditation on the Word

Silence *Fifth Candle is Extinguished*

Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross. Grant that we may hate sin and wickedness more and more as we behold Your Son in all His great agony. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Sixth Word

Hymn - O Perfect Life of Love

LSB 452 st. 1, 2, & 5

Jesus' Words

John 19:29–30

²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Words of The World and the Word of Jesus

"King of Israel indeed; Let Him come down now from the cross and then we will believe Him."

"It is finished!"

Meditation on the Word

Silence *Sixth Candle is Extinguished*

The Seventh Word

Hymn - O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LSB 449 st. 1 & 4

Jesus' Words

Luke 23:44-47

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

The Words of The World and the Word of Jesus

"Certainly this man was innocent".

**"Father, into Your hands I commend
my Spirit."**

Meditation on the Word

Silence

Seventh Candle is Extinguished

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Remembering Jesus' Death

The Christ Candle is removed from the Sanctuary.

*A single bell will toll 33 times, once for each
year of Jesus' life.*

Remember Jesus' Burial

(The Strepitus)

*A loud noise reminds us of the earthquake
and the closing of the tomb.*

Remember the Hope we have in Jesus and His Word

*The Christ Candle is returned
to the Sanctuary.*

*All depart in the silent hope of the promise
of resurrection on the third day.*

***Blessed Jesus, let me find a cover in Your
appeasing wounds. Though my sins rise
to heaven, Your merits soar above them,
though unrighteousness weighs me
down to hell, Your righteousness exalts
me to Your throne. All things in me call
for my rejection, all things in You plead
for my acceptance. Grant me to hear
Your voice assuring me, that You have
been made sin for me that I might be
righteous in You, that my grievous sins,
my manifold sins, are all forgiven, buried
in the ocean of Your concealing blood.***

A Puritan Prayer

Please join us for Sunday services at 10 am

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

570-836-2301 (call/text)
5672 SR 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Pastor Josh - pastorjosh@stpaulslutheranpa.org

Website - stpaulslutheranpa.org

Sermons are posted here:

youtube.com/@StPaulsLutheranTunkhannock/streams

Offering - Monthly offering needs are \$10,888.75
March offering total \$15,621.50 (five weeks)

Those Who Serve

Date	Reader	Ushers	Acolyte
April 5	Donna W	Bill Y & Don S	Nate J
April 12	Karen M	Kevin D & Keith M	Kayla S
April 19	Bill Y	Jack W & Don S	Nate J
April 26	Diane T	Willy F & Bill Y	Nate J
May 3	Karen M	Jack P & Jack W	Kayla S
May 10	Nancy P	Willy F & Bill Y	Nate J
May 17	Bill Y	Kevin D & Will F	Nate J
May 24	Karen M	Bill Y & Keith M	Kayla S
May 31	Kevin D	Pete W & Keith M	Nate J

Officers for St. Paul's Church 2026

President	Becky Durland	570-836-4532
Secretary	Elizabeth Stackhouse	570-833-5971
Treasurer	Regina Forba	570-836-6173
Financial Secretary	Linda Wozniak	570-380-3880

Church Events

Meet with Pastor Josh

Sign-up sheet in narthex

Youth Activities - Please contact

Liz Stackhouse 570-833-5971

New Bible Study

Join us Wednesdays during Lent for a '**Back to the Basics**' Bible Study as we look at what we believe as Christians and why we believe it. We will use Luther's Small Catechism to review and discuss the Six Chief Parts of the Christian faith.

Council Meeting - April 13 - 4 pm

Birthdays

- April 1 William Yarasavage
- April 2 Mallory Griggs
- April 4 Linda Wozniak
- April 14 Diane Olson

Acknowledgements

Parts of Liturgy from: Zion Lutheran Church
"Office of Tenebrae" April 2, 2021;
zionelpaso.org

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder
©2026 Concordia Publishing House.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 No Study	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm service	3 Good Friday 7 pm	4
5 Easter Communion	6	7	8 Bible Study 5 pm	9	10	11
12	13 Council Meeting 4 pm	14	15 Bible Study 5 pm	16	17	18
19 Communion	20	21	22 Bible Study 5 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Bible Study 5 pm	30		

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Communion	11 Council Meeting 4 pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Communion	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Communion						