

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Good Friday (April 3):
7 PM (Tenebrae)

Easter Sunrise (April 5):
7 AM (Green Area Behind Sanctuary,
Weather Permitting)

Easter Breakfast (April 5):
Following Sunrise

Flowering of the Cross (April 5):
9:15 AM (in front of the Sanctuary, weather permitting)

Easter Worship (April 5):
10:30 AM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Little Mountain, SC
holyltc.org

GOOD FRIDAY



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April 3, 2026

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Little Mountain, South Carolina

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2026

The Tenebrae begins in silence for reflection.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE TENEBRAE

The Tenebrae Service is sometimes called the "Service of Shadows," because the Latin word "tenebrae" means "shadows." The dimly-lighted sanctuary symbolizes the darkness of Calvary and the awful consequence of Sin. The service is one of the oldest in the history of the Church. It has been traditional to use this service during Holy Week, especially on Good Friday, in many areas of Christendom. The liturgy begins and ends in silence. At the conclusion of the liturgy, all are asked to leave the sanctuary in silence.

Christ's Seven Last Words from the Cross, are like seven panels of one single stained glass window. Therefore the interpretation of each of the seven texts is not to be found in the text alone, but in the harmony that occurs when these texts are brought together to form a worshipful, devotional unity centering on our Lord's Passion and the Cross.

The extinguishing of the candles during the liturgy symbolizes the flight of the disciples and the apparent victory of the evil powers over Christ in His Passion. The removal of the central candle symbolizes the death of Christ. At this point in the liturgy, the sanctuary will be dark. The loud closing of the Bible near the end of the liturgy indicates the closing of the tomb, the trembling of the earth and the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation.

The congregation is asked to join in the singing of the hymns and the responsive readings/prayers. During the liturgy, the congregation will remain seated for the readings and hymns.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE TENEBRAE

The Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember 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.

The Fourth Word - Matthew 27:46

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The fourth candle is extinguished, the bell is rung followed by brief silent reflection.

Hymn 93: *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary* (verse 1-2)

The Fifth Word - John 19:28

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, He said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty."

The fifth candle is extinguished, the bell is rung followed by brief silent reflection.

Hymn 107: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (verse 1-2)

The Sixth Word - John 19:30

A jar of sour wine was standing there, so they put a sponge full of wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, He said, "It is finished." Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

The sixth candle is extinguished, the bell is rung followed by brief silent reflection.

Hymn 117: *O, Sacred Head Now Wounded* (verse 1-2)

The Seventh Word - Luke 23:46-47

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. While the sun's light faded, the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus with a loud voice cried out, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.

Hymn 92: *Were You There?* (verse 1-2)

In symbolic remembrance of the death of Jesus and the closing of the dark tomb, the lights in the TLC are turned off, the Bible is closed and the torches are removed.

Following a brief time of reflection, the lights are turned on and the congregation sings the hymn:

Hymn 482: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

There is no blessing or dismissal and all are asked to depart in silence as we reflect on the events of the night and prepare to return on Sunday to celebrate together the Easter Victory of our Lord!

The 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

Procession of the Cross

As the cross enters our worship the following is repeated three times.

P: Behold the life giving cross on which hangs + The Savior of the whole world.

C: **Oh, come, let us worship Him.**

The Power of the Cross

Choir

The congregation sits for a period of silence and reflections on the cross of Christ and the significance of this event for the life of the believer.

THE TENEBRAE Seven Last Words of Christ

The First Word - Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his left and one on his right. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

The first candle is extinguished, the bell is rung followed by brief silent reflection.

Hymn 306: Chief of Sinners Though I Be (verse 1-2)

The Second Word - Luke 23:40-43

One of the criminals kept derided Jesus saying, "Are you 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."

The second candle is extinguished, the bell is rung followed by brief silent reflection.

Hymn 123: Ah, Holy Jesus (verse 1-2)

The Third Word - John 19:26-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister... 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, "This is your mother."

The third candle is extinguished, the bell is rung followed by brief silent reflection.

Hymn 95: Glory Be to Jesus (verse 1-2)

GODS WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel According to St. Matthew

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Matthew 27:62-66

Sermon "Ironies of the Passion: I Will Rise Again"

Pastor Randy Drafts

Hymn of the Day

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Hymn 104

THE BIDDING PRAYER

(The Congregation remains seated.)

Pastor: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship Him in peace and tranquility.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for our Bishop, for our Pastors and other Ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our Bishop, Pastors, his assistants and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for those preparing for Baptism, that God make them responsive to His love, and give them new life in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of all your servants and those preparing for Baptism. Give them a new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one Church all those who know Christ as Lord.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our Baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Hear the prayers of your Church that the people you first made your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find Him who is the author and goal of our existence.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, they may all recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for those who serve in public office and those that give their lives for our freedom and protect us from harm, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, soldiers, police and first responders so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger and disease.

Silent prayer.

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

(we stand)