

# Good Friday Tenebrae Service



**Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church**



## Welcome to God's Service of Praise, Prayer, Meal and Song

### Our Mission

*Mount Tabor is a welcoming, compassionate community, living God's love through faithful worship and active service in the world.*

### Our Values

**Grace:** *We seek to proclaim God's promises of love, grace, and salvation for all humankind.*

**Welcome:** *We seek to welcome all to walk with us in Christ's love, hope, and joy; we strive to include others, especially those who have felt excluded or rejected in the past.*

**Music and Worship:** *We seek to gather in worship and song—to celebrate with those who rejoice, to mourn with those who sorrow, and to share together in God's love.*

**Service:** *We seek to serve our community and the world, offering up our time, talents, and treasures to bring about God's healing and justice in the world.*

**Mount Tabor is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** and a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation of the ELCA. This means that all are welcome and affirmed, especially our LGBTQ+ siblings, and that we are connected to the world. We all have a place here at God's round table just as we are!

**If this is your first time here, a special welcome to you!** We are mask optional and mask friendly. Please sign the guest register in the narthex (along with your e-mail and cell) so we can be in touch, put on a name tag, and join us for refreshments after the service.

**The twelve parking slots on the north side of the parking lot** have been leased to students living in Unite Student Living for their use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **The slots are numbered 1 to 12. Do not park in these slots as your vehicle may be towed. All other spots** – aside from handicap spaces – **are also rented between 9pm-9am.** Please plan accordingly.

**Holy Communion is open to all.** Children of all ages are always welcome in the sanctuary. We are blessed to be part of their faith formation through worship! With parents' or guardians' permission, children are invited to receive communion. Gluten-free bread & grape juice are available options. If you would like a blessing, come to the altar with your arms folded. Come when you are ready.

**Prayer slips** are available from the ushers. Write your prayers and then leave them in the offering plates to be added to the prayer chain around the altar.

**Please turn off cell phones** in the sanctuary before worship begins.

Visit our web site at [www.mttaborslc.org](http://www.mttaborslc.org)

## GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 3, 2026

\*Indicates to please stand as you are able until you are directed to be seated.  
Congregational responses are in bold print.

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as the People of God.*

#### Welcome

Welcome to our Tenebrae service this evening. The word “Tenebrae” means darkness in Latin, and this service of deepening darkness mirrors the darkness that came over the world at the crucifixion. We enter in silence. As the service unfolds, candles will be extinguished as we remember the final hours of Jesus’ life and the reality of his death. When we extinguish the final candle, the Christ candle, we will experience the utter darkness which fell upon the world with Christ’s final breath. At the end of the service, we will depart in silence without a benediction, because until Easter Sunday, there is simply nothing more to say.

#### Candle Lighting

In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep. Then God said,  
**“Let there be light.”**

And there was light. And every day since, the light has come and gone.

**The sun has risen and set.**

The moon has waxed and waned.

**The light is still with us.**

In the beginning was the Word, which brought all things into being.

What has come into being through him is life,

**the light of all people.**

The light shined in the darkness,

**and the darkness did not overtake it.**

When God made the light,  
when the light of all people came into the world,  
God did not send away the dark.

**The darkness remains.**

God created the night for dreams and clarity,

**an exhaling of the light.**

Let us enter this holy darkness to bear witness to the light of the world who was extinguished by violence.

**Let us worship our Incarnate God.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**Go to Dark Gethsemane**

**ELW 347**



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

**THE WORD**

*God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching and Song*

**First Reading: The Arrest**

**Luke 22:47-53**

**Visio Divina**

I invite you into a time of prayerful contemplation as we look deeply at the art on your bulletin. Take a moment to let your eyes move about the image.

**Pause.**

Now consider, what stands out to you? Where are your eyes immediately drawn? What pieces of the image did you initially overlook?

Pause.

What stories and emotions does the image draw out of you? Which symbol or figure affects you most deeply?

Pause.

If you were to place yourself in this image, where would you be? How would you interact with what surrounds you?

### First Hymn

### O Sacred Head Now Wounded

ELW 351



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite  
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

### Second Reading: The Sentencing

Luke 23:13-25

#### Call to Confession

In his book *What Will You Do with King Jesus?* James A. Harnish writes, “Is it possible that our world still knows better how to deal with a bandit,

a murderer, and insurrectionist than it knows what to do with the Prince of Peace?  
... Is it possible that we would rather deal with raw power that rides on a stallion  
than with this one who comes on a donkey,  
with the weapons of love, patience, suffering, and peace?  
Given the choice, isn't it possible that we would take Barabbas, too?"

Friends, the passion narrative invites us to place ourselves in the story,  
to examine our own complicity in cycles of violence.  
And the good news is, we don't have to do this alone.  
The God who made us knows our hearts, knows our flaws,  
and knows all our best intentions. We don't have to hide.  
There's no need to save face.  
Let us simply turn to God in prayer with our whole hearts.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we can easily see ourselves in any number of  
the people surrounding Jesus in his final days.

**We are Judas, betraying what we hold most dear for status, wealth, and security.  
We are the soldiers, using our power to maintain the status quo which serves us.  
We are the disciples, brandishing our weapons to fight violence with violence,  
and we are the high priest's servant, victims of a world hell-bent on winning.  
Prince of Peace, forgive us.**

We are Herod, finding our entertainment at the expense of other people's dignity.  
**We are Pilate, excusing ourselves from the blame that is rightfully ours.  
We are the crowd, foaming at the mouth and demanding blood,  
and we are Barabbas, our lives spared while others are crucified.  
Prince of Peace, forgive us.**

**Forgive us, we pray, for the parts we have played.  
Set us free from the sin that chokes the world,  
threatening to extinguish all that is good and beautiful.  
Break the cycles of violence, step into the machinery of a world  
fueled by division and disrupt us.  
Forgive us, Prince of Peace.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Have mercy on us.  
Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Family of faith, the impossibly good news is that we are forgiven. No matter what we have or haven't done, our God is always waiting with open arms to receive us.

**Amen.**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn**

Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed

Bob Kauflin  
Jen Marco, Soloist

## **Third Reading: Crucifixion**

**Luke 23:33-38**

## **Reflecting on the Cross**

Prayer stations are arranged throughout the sanctuary to guide you in reflecting on the crucifixion. Take time at each station to pause, reflect, and pray.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn**

Were You There

African American Spiritual  
Jen Marco, Soloist

## **Fourth Reading: The Death**

**Luke 23:44-46**

## **Final Meditation**

Whetting of Attention by Ted Loder from [Wrestling the Light: Ache and Awe in the Human-Devine Struggle](#)

## **SENDING**

*God Blesses Us and Sends Us in Mission to the World.*

## **Extinguishing the Light**

## **Departing in Silence**

Go in peace as you depart in silence.

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**Good Friday: April 3, 2026**  
**Assisting Minister:** Kylie Jones-Greenwood  
**Lector:** Chris Jensen / Shem Greenwood  
**Usher:** Dave Warren  
**Counters:** N/A  
**Greeter:** N/A  
**Altar Ministry:** N/A  
**AV Technicians:** Duane Lee, Lee Kreutzer  
**Presiding Minister:** Rev. Christine Higuera-Street  
**Music Minister:** Bob Brown  
**Administrative Assistant:** Kristin Jensen

### **Our Life Together Announcements**

**Easter Brunch** Join us after worship on Easter Sunday, April 5th for our Easter Brunch, hosted by the Council and Endowment & Memorials Committee. There will be a free will offering to benefit the Food Assistance and Emergency Assistance Ministry. There will be ham, quiches, fruit and more to enjoy. Bring your friends and family to church and stay afterwards for this delicious event.

**Utah Food Bank** – We will be sorting food at the Utah Food Bank on **Saturday April 4 from 10am to Noon.**

**First Things, First Mondays rally** at the Federal Building 125 State Street, SLC at noon are continuing **Monday, April 6 at noon.** We are standing in solidarity with our immigrant and LBGTQIA+ neighbors who are being targeted in the legislature and in the streets. For any questions, please contact Pastor Brigitte Weier at [weierbridgetter@gmail.com](mailto:weierbridgetter@gmail.com).

**The Worship and Music Ministry** will meet on Sunday **April 12<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.**

**"Dinner At Vinnies" service opportunity is Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm** at the St Vincent DePaul Dining Hall at the Weigand Center downtown. Come and share Tabor's gracious and loving hospitality with our hungry neighbors living on the streets. We always have room for more volunteers! Please see Casey White if you have any questions.

**The Council** will meet on **Sunday, April 19**, directly after worship.

**Senior Food Box Distribution** Our distribution of USDA food boxes to seniors in our neighborhood continues with our next distribution set for **Wednesday, April 22nd**. These boxes are available for those who meet eligibility guidelines and have signed up through the Utah Food Bank.

**Family Promise dinner dates for 2026:** Mount Tabor will be providing dinners on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and brunch on Saturday for the following weeks at **Christ United Methodist Church** (2375 E 3300S):

**April 26 - May 2; September 13 – 19.** This is a great opportunity to show God's love to **unhoused Families**. If you have any questions about being a volunteer, please let me know. ~Chris Jensen, Family Promise Coordinator

**Announcements** for the bulletin are **due by Wednesdays at noon**.

**You may add names to the prayer list** by sending a request to Kristin Jensen ([office@mttaborslc.org](mailto:office@mttaborslc.org)), or Pastor Christine ([pastor@mttaborslc.org](mailto:pastor@mttaborslc.org)). Names added to the prayer list will remain there for one month. You may request that they stay on longer or come off sooner by contacting the same people. Please note that **names submitted after Weds at 12PM noon will be included in the following week's bulletin**.

**Pastor Christine** is available by text and is the best way to communicate with her. Her contact information is 801-215-9208 or 619-459-8879 which you may text, call and leave voicemails. Emails can be sent to [pastor@mttaborslc.org](mailto:pastor@mttaborslc.org).