VIII. The Gospel: Mark 15:33

The Darkness

P Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.



Extinguishing of the sanctuary lights. Minute of silence.



IX. The Gospel: Mark 15:34-41 Christ's Death Extinguishing of the sixth candle.

X. The Gospel: Mark 15:42-47 Jesus' Burial Extinguishing of the seventh candle.

THE BENEDICTION

P Go now into the darkness of evening. Though we walk in darkness, we are not forsaken. We are led by the hand of God. May the love of the Father calm your fears. May the grace of the Lord Jesus keep you through the night. May the presence of the Holy Spirit sustain you throughout life. The Lord be with you. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tolling of the bell 33 times.

Our worship will resume on Sunday morning as the tomb is opened to reveal Christ's victory over death!

9:00 am (Masks-On Service) 10:15 am (Masks Optional)



P Holy Father, on this day Your Son Jesus carried the burden of our sin to the cross, there to suffer and die for the darkness of our trespasses. Your love for us is so great that You sacrificed Your only Son in our place. He willingly took the guilt, pain, and punishment that we so rightfully deserve. The darkness of His death gives us the light of salvation through faith. For this we give You the praise, honor, and glory due Your most holy name.

C Amen.

Hymn: TLH #159 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

- 1. Go to dark Gethsemane, Ye that feel the Tempter's power; Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour; Turn not from His griefs away, Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2. Follow to the judgment-hall, View the Lord of life arraigned; Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; Learn of Him to bear the cross.
- 3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet, Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.

 "It is finished!" bear Him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.
- 4. Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay; All is solitude and gloom,-- Who hath taken Him away? Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

RESPONSIVE READING

Mark 14:26-31

- P And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."
- Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be."
- P Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."
- But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Gracious God, You know our frailty. You understand our weakness. You are acquainted with our failures. Though we have professed to believe, we betray our Lord by our actions. Though

that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions: he was crushed for our iniquities: upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Singing with the Exiles:

"All"

GENERAL PRAYER

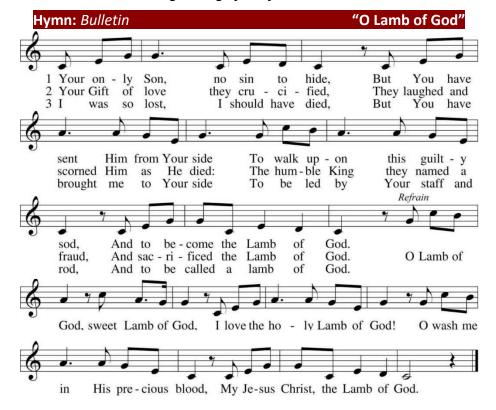
VII. The Gospel: Mark 15:21-32 The Crucifixion Extinguishing of the fifth candle.

Duet

"Were You There"

- P But they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!"
- So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified.

VI. The Gospel: Mark 15:16-20 *The Mocking of the Soldiers Extinguishing of the fourth candle.*



SERMON - **Isaiah 52:13-53:12** Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴ As many were astonished at you-- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind-- ¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. ¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty

we have promised to follow, we deny Christ by our selfishness. Though we have vowed to be faithful, we desert our Savior by our own desires. We have lived for ourselves and abandoned those in need. We have refused to bear the troubles of others. In Your great mercy, forgive our sins, free us from all evil, and enable us to live for You, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

- P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you grace to live according to His will.
- C Amen.

Hymn: TLH #156:1,2,5 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

- 1. Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.
- 2. But Christ, the heavenly Lamb, Takes all our sins away; A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.
- 5. Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove; We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

+ The Service of Darkness +

I. The Gospel: Mark 14:32-42

Gethsemane

Extinguishing of the first candle.

Hymn: WS #721 "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"

- 1. Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed, Perfect man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!
- 2. Here the King of all the ages, Throned in light ere worlds could be, Robed in mortal flesh is dying, Crucified by sin for me.
- 3. O mysterious condescending! O abandonment sublime! Very God Himself is bearing All the sufferings of time!
- 4. Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed, Perfect man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!

II. The Gospel: Mark 14:43-52 Betrayal and Arrest

P And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

- Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely."
- As soon as he had come, immediately He went up to Him and said to Him, "Rabbi, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him.
- And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.
- Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."
- Then they all forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.
 - III. The Gospel: Mark 14:53-65 The Sanhedrin Trial Extinguishing of the second candle.

Hymn: TLH #172:1,2,4 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

- 1. O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down, Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown. O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.
- 2. Men mock and taunt and jeer Thee, Thou noble countenance, Though mighty worlds shall fear Thee And flee before Thy glance. How art thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn! How doth Thy visage languish That once was bright as morn!
- 4. My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me, For it was my transgression Which brought this woe on thee. I cast me down before Thee, Wrath were my rightful lot; Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!

IV. The Gospel: Mark 14:66-72 The Courtyard

- Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth."
- But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.

- P And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them."
- **©** But he denied it again.
- And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it."
- Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" A second time the rooster crowed.
- Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."
- **C** And when he thought about it, he wept.

Extinguishing of the third candle.

Hymn: TLH #146:1 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

- Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer, Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
 All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us: Have mercy on us, O Jesus!
 - V. The Gospel: Mark 15:1-15

The Roman Trial

- Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate.
- Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"
- P He answered and said to him, "It is as you say." And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing.
- Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!"
- P But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.
- Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested.
- P And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them.
- But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.
- P So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"
- Then Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?"