

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

10 McClellan Circle – Buffalo New York 14220

Phone: 824-2787

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GOOD FRIDAY

April 2, 2010

7:30 p.m.

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Rev. Ronald R. Sprehe

Vacancy Pastor

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TENEBRAE

“He Himself Bore Our Sins in His Body on a Tree”

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

(pages refer to Lutheran Worship Blue Book)

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, as we meditate in this service on Your death for us, let those final sentences which You spoke from the cross impart a personal blessing, that we may worship in spirit and truth and be moved to sacrifice our whole life as an offering to You. Amen.

Prelude: (lighting of the candles) -

The Invocation

Our Confession of Sins: (Pastor and Congregation)

Merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy on us. Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, for His sake, that we may live a godly righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

The Absolution: (Pastor)

The almighty and merciful God grant unto you for Jesus sake pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of His holy spirit. Amen.

The Psalmody:

Psalm 130 - read responsively by verses page 358

The Agnus Dei:

Pastor: O Christ the Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world.

People: Have mercy upon us.

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Pastor: O Christ the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

People: Grant us thy peace. Amen.

The Our Father

Our Offering

Hymn - “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” LW 101

THE MEDITATIONS: “THE SEVEN LAST WORDS”

The First Sentence: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
(Luke 23:34)

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

People: Lord have mercy for we snatch at rules and traditions and neglect the weightier matters of the law; justice and mercy and faith. We strain at gnats and swallow camels.

Hymn (1st candle extinguished) LW 113 vs. 1

The Second Sentence: “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in paradise.”
(Luke 23:43)

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

People: Lord, have mercy for we too often fail to tell our fellow his fault between us alone, but hurt his honor with a sharp tongue and deceitful heart.

Hymn (2nd candle extinguished) LW 113 vs.2

The Third Sentence: “Woman, behold your son; Son, behold Your mother.”
(John 19:26 & 27)

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

People: Lord have mercy upon us for we often dishonor and disrespect our parents and those in authority, and provoke our children to anger in petty ways and neglect their Christian instruction.

Hymn (3rd candle extinguished) LW 113 – vs. 3

The Fourth Sentence: “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”
(Matthew 27:45)

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us for we deny and forsake You and others by our words and actions as Peter did.

Hymn 4th candle extinguished) LW 113 – vs. 4

The Fifth Sentence: “I thirst.” (John 19:28)

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us for we often close our eyes and ears when You are helpless, old, hungry, thirsty, naked, alone and fearful.

Hymn (5th candle extinguished) LW 113 – vs. 5

The Sixth Sentence: “It is finished.” (John 29:30)

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us for we often forget Your words that You have finished Your work of redemption for us, and that You now ask us to take up our cross and follow You in our lives in this world.

Hymn (6th candle extinguished) LW 113 – vs. 6

The Seventh Sentence: “Father, into Thy hands I commit My Spirit.”

(Luke 23:46)

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in His body upon the tree.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us for we often desire to commit our lives into the hands of masters of our own making, such as our homes, cars, skills, education, family or friends, and find ourselves desiring You and Your Word.

Hymn (7th candle extinguished) LW 100

Exit of the Christ Candle

The Closing of the Book

The Silent Prayer

Leave in Silence

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EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

Easter Sunrise Communion 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Easter Festival Worship Communion 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Classes 10:15 a.m.

Explanation of the Service

The service is patterned after the ancient office of Tenebrae. The word “Tenebrae” means darkness. The purpose of the service is to impress upon us the terrible reality of sin, which caused our Savior to die for us.

A total of eight candles are used in this worship service. Seven of these candles represent the last sentences which our Savior spoke from the cross, and the eighth candle is the Christ Candle.

As the seven candles are extinguished, one by one, causing the chancel to become increasingly darkened, we are reminded of the darkness that covered the earth at the time our Lord spoke these words at His crucifixion. It also serves as a reminder of the spiritual darkness that would exist had the Light of the World not come.

The exit of the Christ Candle near the close of the service signifies Christ’s death and burial. When the book is lifted a few inches and slammed back down to create a closing sound, we acknowledge that with the sealed tomb the meaning of the cross is fulfilled, the sacrifice completed. The Christ Candle is not extinguished at any time during the service. It is symbolic of the eternal light of God’s love.

Though evil had its hour, the light of God’s love continues to burn to all eternity.