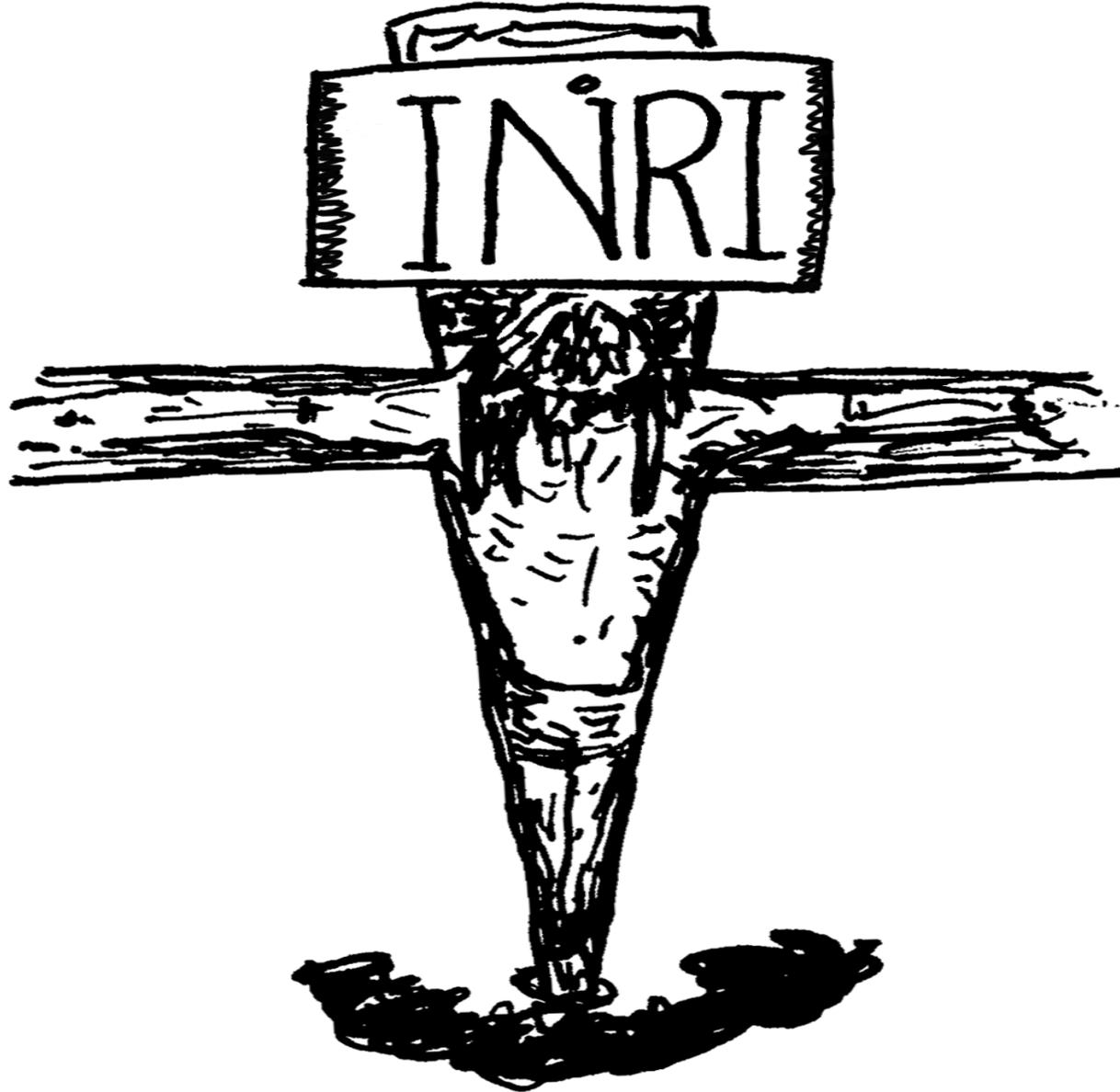


**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND  
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

422 Valhi Boulevard  
(985)879-1865/1833  
March 30, 2018

Houma, Louisiana 70360  
Pastor Richard D. Rudnik  
Tenebrae Service



**AS WE GATHER**

*Note from Pastor—There is a lot of standing/kneeling and sitting again in this service as a way of manifesting honor, reverence and repentance. If this is physically trying for you, please do not feel obligated to continue in all these motions. They are meant to enhance, not detract from, your worship experience.*

We contemplate our Lord's Passion unfolding and ending as He submits Himself to the frailty of human flesh—even to the point of death. Today we hear and meditate on the words of Christ on the cross. At His final moment, He speaks the words "It is finished!"—simple words giving us unending hope. Praise be to Christ, who endured cross and torment—all of hell—for the forgiveness of our sins.

**+ PREPARATION +**

*Stand*

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously be with us for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross that He might draw the whole world to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our forgiveness and life may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**READING**    *John 18:28–19:16*

Lector:        O Lord, have mercy on us.  
People:        **Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

**HYMN**        “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” LSB #439, verses 1-4

*Kneel*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor:        Throughout these days of Lent, we have solemnly and reflectively followed Jesus’ mission for the salvation of the world. Tonight as we confront the culmination of Jesus’ Passion, we are compelled to face the harsh reality of our sin and the brokenness that it brings.

People:        **Lord God, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness. We have failed to follow Your will. We have refused to obey Your law. We are unable to fulfill Your plan. We are crushed under the weight of our sin, and tonight the harsh reality of sin’s horror hangs heavy around us. It is sin that made the cross necessary. It is our sin that required the Savior’s death. Lord, we need Your grace. We need Your forgiveness.**

Pastor:        We need a Savior. It was sin that made the cross necessary, but it was love that drove Jesus to the cross and held Him there. It was love for you. Because of His love and His perfect sacrifice, your sins have been covered. The debt has been paid. The burden has been removed. As you hear and experience that reality tonight, you know throughout that you have God’s grace. You have God’s forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People:        **Amen.**

*Sit*

**HYMN**        “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” LSB #439, verse 5

**+ SERVICE OF DARKNESS +**

*Stand or kneel*

**THE FIRST WORD**        *Luke 23:32–34a*

**HYMN**        “Were You There” LSB #456, verse 3

*Stand*

**LORD’S PRAYER**    *(Spoken quietly)*

**People: 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.**

**STREPITUS**

*The loud, sudden sound following the Lord’s Prayer is to symbolize the death of Jesus and the closing of the tomb. As we depart from this service in silent meditation, we remember our need for deliverance and forgiveness and the price paid for achieving and fulfilling God’s promises. It is finished.*

**SILENCE FOR MEDITATION**

*Please depart in silence.*

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## THE SIXTH WORD

*John 19:29–30*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by Your Father for the sake of us and the world. We pray that You would complete in us also everything that You intend for us, so that as children of the heavenly Father, we may live for His glory.  
People: **Amen.**

*Sit*

**HYMN** “Upon the Cross Extended” LSB #453, verses 1, 4 & 7

*Stand or kneel*

## THE SEVENTH WORD

*Luke 23:44–46; Matthew 27:51*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, as You gave Your life on the cross in our place, You commended Your spirit into the loving hands of Your heavenly Father. Give us the grace to trust in You for all things. When our last hour comes, grant us peace, that we may close our eyes with confidence, knowing that we also will dwell forever in the hands of our heavenly Father.  
People: **Amen.**

*Sit*

**HYMN** “Were You There” LSB #456, verse 1 & 2

**READING** *John 19:38–42*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Prince of Peace. When You were mocked, You did not respond with harsh words. When You were tormented, You did not react in anger. When You were nailed to the cross, You prayed for the forgiveness of those who caused You to suffer. Give to us the virtues of gentleness, patience, and a forgiving spirit. Teach us also to love our enemies, and as children of the heavenly Father, to live in Your peace.  
People: **Amen.**

*Sit*

**HYMN** “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” LSB #439, verses 12, 15

*Stand or kneel*

## THE SECOND WORD

*Luke 23:35–43*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite mercy, You heard the plea of the dying thief on the cross next to You. We pray that You would open our hearts to welcome those who turn to You, and rejoice in their salvation. When our last hour comes, hold us firm in our faith, and bring us also to live with You in paradise.  
People: **Amen.**

*Sit*

**HYMN** “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” LSB #440, verses 1, 2, 4

*Stand or kneel*

## THE THIRD WORD

*John 19:25–27*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, while You suffered the agony of the cross, Your thoughts turned to the welfare of others. Your concern was for Your mother in her sorrow. We pray that You would regard with pity all parents who mourn the death of their children, and all parents who sorrow because their children have gotten into trouble or forsaken their faith. By the power of Your healing, we pray that parents and children know peace and that relationships be restored.

**People:** Amen.

*Sit*

**HYMN** "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" LSB \$451, verses 1 & 3

*Stand or kneel*

**THE FOURTH WORD** *Matthew 27:45–47*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## PRAYER

Pastor: Lord God, Father of all people and Creator of all that exists, You hold all people in Your power. We pray that You would not forsake the world that Your Son died to redeem. Even though we still see the influence of sin and evil all around us, assure us of Your continued presence in our midst. Help us to know Your love in our lives, so we can show Your presence to others.

**People:** Amen.

*Sit*

**HYMN** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" LSB #450, verses 1 & 2

*Stand*

**CREED** *Apostles' Creed*

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life + everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

## SERMON

## MEDITATION

*Stand or kneel*

**THE FIFTH WORD** *John 19:28–29*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You endured not only spiritual anguish but also physical pain on the cross in our place. We thirst for the healing that only You can provide. When we find ourselves suffering, give us peace and patience to endure the pain that comes our way. Bring to our minds all that You endured for us, and give us the strength to bear our burdens by the grace of Your holy example.

**People:** Amen.

*Sit*

**HYMN** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" LSB #425, verses 1, 3 & 4

*Stand or kneel*