

Tenebrae Service

April 14, 2022



Maundy Thursday

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The Words of Preparation

The Tenebrae Service is one of the oldest Holy Week traditions of the Christian church. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "shadows," and the Tenebrae Service tells the story of Jesus' passion in experiential form. As the service unfolds, symbolic candles are extinguished and the sanctuary is darkened to depict the final hours of Jesus' life and to dramatize the impact of his death. After each reading, a candle will be extinguished and we will respond to the darkness by pleading, "Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy." When all seven candles have been extinguished, only the Christ Candle will remain lighted. Then, it will be removed that we might experience the utter darkness which fell upon the earth at the death of God's Son and during the three days he was in the tomb. There is no benediction or other conclusion to the service because until Easter Sunday, there is simply nothing more to say.

Please silence your cell phones during this time of worship.

The Chiming

Before the fruit is ripened by the sun, before the petals or the leaves uncoil, before the first fine silken root is spun, a seed is dropped and buried in the soil. Before the Easter alleluias ring, before the fear of death has lost its sting, a just and loving man is crucified. Before we gain the grace that comes through loss, before we live by more than bread and breath, before we lift in joy an empty cross, we face with Christ the seed's renewing death. –Thomas Troeger

The Prelude

Jennifer Harberson

O Sacred Head Surrounded, J.S. Bach

The Call to Worship

Rev. Robert Gammon

Minister: Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death.

People: We come with his friends, the men and women who have followed him in every place and generation.

Minister: To relive this story of betrayal, weakness, and courage.

**People: We come to witness your love in action.
Be with us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***The Hymn**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, No. 213
(Stanzas 1, 2, and 3)

Congregation

The Reading of Scripture

The Shadow of Betrayal

Matthew 26:20-29

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

The Observance of Holy Communion

Rev. Kevin Gardner-Sinclair

The Reading of Scripture

The Shadow of Agony

Matthew 26:36-42

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

The Response

What Wondrous Love is This, Mark Hayes

Jennifer Harberson

The Reading of Scripture

The Shadow of Denial

Matthew 26:69-75

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

***The Response**

Ah, Holy Jesus, No. 231 (Stanzas 1,2, and 3)

Congregation

The Reading of Scripture

The Shadow of Accusation

Matthew 27:20-29

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

The Response

Behold, the Lamb of God, Hopson

Chancel Choir

The Reading of Scripture

Matthew 27:31-43

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

***The Response**

Congregation

Go to Dark Gethsemane, No. 225

The Reading of Scripture

Matthew 27:45-54

The Shadow of Death

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

The Response

Chancel Choir

The Tree of Life, Scott

The Reading of Scripture

Matthew 27:57-60

The Shadow of Burial

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Dismiss in Silence and in Shadows

When all seven candles have been extinguished, only the Christ Candle will remain lighted. It will then be removed, that we might experience the utter darkness that fell upon the earth at the death of God's son and during the three days he was in the tomb. There is no benediction or other conclusion to the service because until Easter Sunday, there is simply nothing more to say.