



March 29, 2024 – Good Friday Tenebrae Service

As We Gather

Our service is an adaptation of the ancient Tenebrae Service. The Tenebrae Service dates from at least the 8th century, and perhaps as early as the 5th century A.D. The word Tenebrae means “shadows” or “darkness.” Thus, the service moves from light to darkness. As the candles are extinguished and the lights dimmed during the course of the service, we are reminded of the darkness that covered the earth when Jesus hung on the cross and of the darkness of our sins which caused His death. However, one candle will remain burning at the end of the service to symbolize that even in the midst of death and darkness, the forces of hell shall not prevail against the light of Christ. His resurrection is sure. And we too, shall rise.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Pastor: Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by?

People: **Look and see if there is any sorrow like His sorrow.**

Pastor: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

People: **Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

Pastor: God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all.

People: **He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.**

Pastor: God forbid that we should glory, save in the Cross of Christ our Lord.

People: **We are gathered here tonight to remember that in the death of Christ, we have life and to thank God for His amazing love and mercy.**

All: **Almighty God in this period of meditation and prayer may our attention be focused on Christ who gave His life for us and who revealed to us the greatness of Your mercy. We pray that You will so guide us during our worship together, that our hearts and lives may be touched by You in such a way, that each of us might receive a greater appreciation for that which Christ did for us at Golgotha on the first Good Friday. This we pray in His name. Amen.**

Theme Hymn: “Our Savior Speaks in Love” (*melody LW 99*)

Our Savior speaks in love To sinners in their need.

Oh, hear the message from above; His gracious promise heed.

“Father, into your hands My spirit I commend.”

And he who hears and understands Receives him at the end.

Our Savior speaks; may we Give heed to ev’ry word,

And grace be given faithfully To trust what we have heard.

Sermon: Luke 23:46 “Hands”

Choir Anthem: “O Darkest Woe”

The Darkness of Misunderstanding

The Words in the Temple: Mark 11:15-18; John 12:28-36

Narrator: And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple. And He taught them, saying:

Jesus: Is it not written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.”

Narrator: And the chief priests and scribes heard it and sought a way to destroy Him, for they feared Him, because the multitudes were astonished at His teaching. Then a voice came from heaven. The crowd standing by heard it and said it had thundered. Jesus answered.

Jesus: The voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.

Narrator: He said this to show what death He was to die. The crowd answered Him.

People: **We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is the Son of man?**

Jesus: The Light is with you a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.

Hymn: LSB 456 “Were You There” vs. 1, 2, & 3

The Darkness of Betrayal

The Words in the Upper Room: Matthew 26:20-24

Hymn: LSB 451 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” vs. 1 & 3

The Darkness of Temptation

The Words in the Garden: Matthew 26:30-31, 36-46

Hymn: LSB 436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” vs 1 & 2

The Darkness of Denial

The Words in the Courtyard: Luke 22:55-62

Hymn: LSB 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” vs. 1 & 3

The Darkness of Injustice

The Words of the Trial: Mark 14:53, 57-64; 15:1-5; Luke 23:7,11

Hymn: LSB 450 “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” vs. 1 & 2

The Darkness of Rejection

The Words before Pilate: Luke 23:13-24

Narrator: Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers of the people, and said to them:

Pilate: You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining Him before you, behold I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against Him. Neither did Herod, for he has sent Him back to us. Behold nothing deserving death has been done by Him, I will therefore chastise Him and release Him.

People: **Crucify Him. Crucify Him.**

Pilate: Why, what evil has He done? I have found in Him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise Him and release Him.

Narrator: But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that He should be crucified.

People: **Crucify Him. Crucify Him.**

Narrator: And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave the sentence that their demand should be granted.

Hymn: LSB 439 “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” vs. 1, 2, & 5

The Darkness of Crucifixion

The Words from the Cross: Luke 23:33-34; Luke 23:39-43; John 19:26-27; Matthew 27:45-46; John 19:28; John 19:30; Luke 23:46

Hymn: LSB 434 “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” vs. 1

Prayers

*Following the prayers, the congregation, with heads bowed, is asked to pray the Lord’s Prayer in a whisper; and then to receive the Benediction. When all have spoken a silent prayer, worshippers are asked to depart the church in **SILENCE** and then to return on Easter morning for a joyous celebration of our Lord’s resurrection.*

Organist: Vonnie Suelter

Voices: Rob Springer

Schedule for Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.

Easter Service with Communion: 10:00 a.m.