

Tenebrae, A Service of Worship for Good Friday

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness “ or “shadows” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae.

Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion; music portrays his pathos and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous event. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the “strepitus” and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Sanctuary light at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.

Prelude: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” arr. Robert Hobby

The Approach to God

Greeting

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercies and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

People: For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

Hymn # 339 Christ, the Life of all the Living

Prayer of the Day

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you

Leader: Let us pray, Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The Service of Shadows

The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit

Reading: Luke 22:39-46

Response: #347 Go To Dark Gethsemane (verses 1-3)

The Shadow of Arrest

Reading: John 18:1-8

Response: # 349 Ah, Holy Jesus

The Shadow of Denial

Reading: Matthew 26:69-75, 27:1-5

Response #803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The Shadow of Accusation

Reading: Mark 15:1-15

Response: # 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

The Shadow of Mockery

Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

Response: # 351 O Sacred Head

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Reading: Matthew 27:32-44

Response:

Choral Anthem

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” arr. Gilbert Martin

Adult Choir

The Shadow of Death

Reading Luke: 23:44-49

Response:

Choral Anthem

“Lamb of God” arr. Gerhard Krapf
Adult Choir

The Sanctuary Light is removed

The Shadow of Burial

Reading: Mark 15:42-46

Response:

Hymn # 353 Were You There

Silent meditation

Streptitus – the slamming of the door

Please stand for the Apostles Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead *
on the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

The Sanctuary light is restored

Leader: May Jesus Christ
Who for our sakes became obedient unto death,
Even death on a cross
Keep you and strengthen you

People: Amen

The Congregation departs in silence

Holy Sat. April 4th 9:00 am Decorating the Sanctuary
6:00 pm Easter Vigil, Trinity Lutheran, Hagerstown

Easter Sunday, April 5th The Resurrection of Our Lord
6:30 am Sunrise Service, Springfield Barn

Festival Services at Zion - 8:15 am and 10:45 am