

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

WE WELCOME you tonight on this most solemn of evenings. Tonight we journey once again to the foot of the Cross. How strange that the path out of the darkness should lead first into the darkness of Good Friday, of our Lord's death for sin. Only this path leads to the light and freedom of Easter.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE The word "Tenebrae" means shadows or darkness. This ancient service of the church is a "service of darkness". Since Good Friday is the most solemn day of the church year this service seeks to reflect that. Rather than follow our normal service format, this service is structured as a series of meditations* on the crucifixion and death of our Savior Jesus, and its meaning for our lives today.

The service itself contains a great deal of symbolism. During the course of the service candles are slowly extinguished and the church is slowly darkened until no light remains. This reminds us of the darkness that covered the earth in the hours surrounding the death of Jesus. We recall the words of Jesus on the night of His betrayal, "Now is your hour and the hour of the power of darkness." At the conclusion of the service, as the congregation sits in complete darkness, the paschal candle (symbolizing Christ) is removed from the church and will not be returned until Easter morning. This symbolizes the death of Jesus. You will then hear a loud noise reminding us of the heavy stone rolled in front of His tomb. Then as the congregation **LEAVES IN SILENCE** a bell will be tolled 33 times, once for each year that Jesus lived on this earth.

You will notice that there is no benediction at the end of this service. That is because this service will not be completed until we celebrate the victory of Jesus over death on Easter morning. Therefore, as you go about tasks on Saturday you should still consider yourself participating in this service. Take time to think and pray over the sacrifice your Savior gave for you.

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE
Meditations on the Passion of Jesus

Please stand

Invocation

P: Holy God, holy and most merciful Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us and hear us. Amen.

P: Holy, most gracious God, we draw near to you this night for we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.

C: Instead, in Jesus we have One who has been tempted in every way as we are and yet was without sin.

P: Therefore, we approach Your throne Lord God, confident that because of Jesus

C: we will receive mercy from You and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Please be seated

Offering

“O Savior of the World”

John Goss

Chancel Choir

The Passion of Our Lord According to Saint Matthew

First Reading

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

Meditation

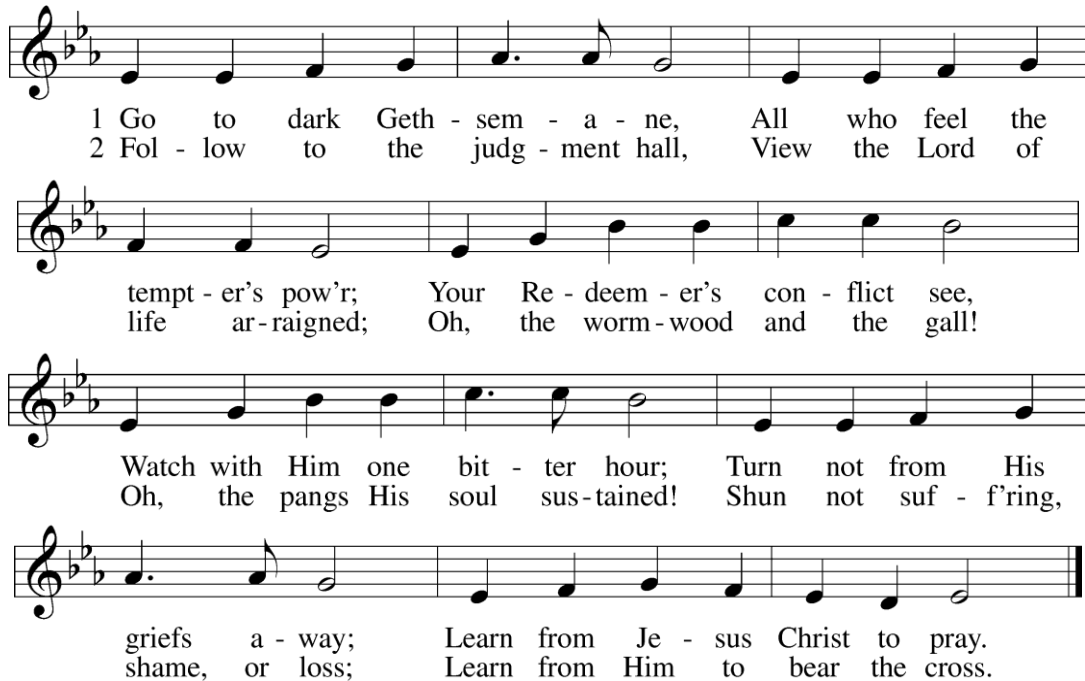
A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please stand

Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Hymn 436 sts. 1-2



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - rained; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901. Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated

Second Reading

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Matthew 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me?”

Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Meditation

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please stand

Hymn “My Song Is Love Unknown” Hymn 430 sts. 1,2,4,7



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and
 7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their
 vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these
 Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.
 I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683. Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962. Text: Public domain.
 Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004553

Please be seated

Third Reading

Peter Denies Jesus

Matthew 26:57, 69-75

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Meditation*A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished***Choral Anthem**

"Lord Jesus, Think On Me"

arr. Toole

*Chancel Choir***Fourth Reading**

Jesus Before Pilate

Matthew 27:11-26

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Meditation

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please stand

Hymn

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”

Hymn 428

Verse 3 – Choir only

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
 2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
 3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
 4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
 Throned in light ere worlds could be,
 O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
 Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
 Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
 Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
 Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
 Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
 All the suf - fer - ings of time!
 Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952. Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901. Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated

Fifth Reading Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Meditation

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please stand

Hymn

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Hymn 449



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,
4 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?
Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,
Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.
My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612.
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Please be seated

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Meditation

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Please stand

Hymn

“Were You There”

Hymn 456 sts. 1-3



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated

Seventh Reading

The Death of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-54

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

Meditation

A Moment of Silent Reflection as a Candle is Extinguished

Choral Anthem “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” arr. Martin
Chancel Choir

Final Reading Matthew 27:57-60

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Choral Anthem “God So Loved the World” John Stainer
Chancel Choir

Removal of the Paschal Candle

The Strepitus

*A bell is tolled 33 times, once for each year that Jesus lived on this earth.
As light is added to the sanctuary, the congregation leaves the
church building in silence.*

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