

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 sound of the "strepitus." The word *strepitus* means "loud noise" and symbolizes the earth shaking and rocks splitting (Matt. 27:51) at Jesus' death, and foreshadows the "violent earthquake" (Matt. 28:2) at the opening of Jesus' tomb on Easter morning.

Please enter in silence.

The Approach to God

Prelude: Chaconne in F minor Pachelbel

Greeting

Leader: The light has come into the world,

And the world loved darkness rather than light.

People: God sent his Son into the world,

Not to condemn the world,

But that the world might be saved through him.

Opening Prayer

Most gracious God, look with mercy upon your children gathered here for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, given into sinful hands and suffered death upon the cross. Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of his passion; through him who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen * Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Luke 22:1-6 Reader: Eric Durbin

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem Ah, Holy Jesus

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Ah, Holy Jesus How have you offended, That mortal judgement

Has on you descended? By foes derided

By your own rejected, O most afflicted. Who was the guilty?

Who brought this upon you? It is my treason, Lord, that

has undone you.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus,
I it was denied you.
I crucified you.

THE SHADOW OF THE AGONY OF THE SPIRIT

Matthew 26:36-44 Reader: Rachel Ehorn

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Response Arise, My Soul Arise

Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears; The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears: Before the throne my surety stands, My name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears; received on Calvary; They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me: Forgive him, O forgive, they cry, Nor let that ransomed sinner die!

My God is reconciled; his pardoning voice I hear; He owns me for his child; I can no longer fear: With confidence I now draw nigh, And Father, Abba, Father, cry.

THE SHADOW OF ARREST

Mark 14:43-50 Reader: Jack Robinson

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Poem of Response Judas, Peter

Luci Shaw

Reader: John Schuurman

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION

Mark 14:66-72 Reader: Doug Penney

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

* Hymn of Response: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

Reader: Dee Netzel Matthew 27:11-17, 21-26

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. All:

Anthem: My Song Is Love Unknown Edwin T. Childs

My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me, Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I, that for my sake

My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew his way And his sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day Hosannas to their king. Then "Crucify" is all their breath, And for his death they thirst and cry. Why, what has my Lord done To cause this rage and spite? He made the lame to run, And gave the blind their sight. What injuries! Yet these are why The Lord most high so cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing, Of him my soul adores. Never was love, dear king, Never was grief like yours!

This is my friend in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27:27-37 Reader: Anna Gissing

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. All:

Anthem of Response: Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs Karl H. Graun

Surely he hath borne our griefs And carried our sorrows.

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Matthew 27: 45-54 Reader: Colin Holman

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

THE SHADOW OF BURIAL

John 19:38-42 Reader: George Garrison

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Response: Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?...

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?... Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?...

Silent meditation

Strepitus

Dismissal

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 people leave in silence.

"Judas, Peter"

because we are all betrayers, taking silver and eating body and blood and asking (guilty) is it I and hearing him say yes it would be simple for us all to rush out and hang ourselves but if we find grace to cry and wait after the voice of morning has crowed in our ears clearly enough to break our hearts he will be there to ask us each again do you love me?

— Luci Shaw

Musicians: Mary Hopper, Alethea Funck, John Zimmerman, Soh-Hyun Altino, Leo Altino, Immanuel Choir

Candle extinguisher: Emma Bauer Starowitz

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