

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.

Opening Prayer

Music: Bending Down Kent Richter

Lord and Teacher of holy grace, Stepping down from the master's place, Lower than the servant's seat, Comes washing filth from wand'ring feet. He comes bending down.

Holy Prophet, some have said, To conquer demons, raise the dead, Love and power none understands Now washes grime with sullied hands. He comes bending down.

Never was Buddha bent so low, Confucius humbled so. What master comes to bow before th' uncomprehending frown? The prophets of ancient times stood tall before the kings and all But Jesus bending down ...

God's Messiah, the people sing, Regal power of a warrior king, King to cleanse these promised lands In silence dies at the Romans' hands. He comes bending down. Some call him the Lord of Light, Perfect soul in a world of night, Spirit past the material plane Now swirls his hands in a world of pain. He comes bending down.

Never could Gnostic light descend, no mystic Brahman bend
To touch a world where purest waters churn to muddy brown.
Children who dare to call him 'Lord,' how can their hands accord
With Jesus bending down ...

O glorious, eternal Word, Voice that all creation stirred, Somehow wrapped in finite of mud Comes washing sin with holy blood. He comes bending down.

All glory to the Holy One: Eternal Father, Spirit, Son O Father from your bounteous will Come, Jesus save, come Spirit fill ... Come bending down.

The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit

Luke 22:39-46 Reader: Jane Osielski

Musical Response: Caritas

Michael Burritt
Nathaniel Holman

The Shadow of Arrest

John 18:1-14 Reader: Michael Kendrick

Musical Response: *There Is a Redeemer*Green/Mayell

Grace and Marcus Mayell

The Shadow of Denial

Matthew 26:69 -75, 27:1-5 Reader: John Schuurman

Response: Poem by Luci Shaw

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?

The Shadow of Accusation

Mark 15:1-15 Reader: Amy Vautin

Musical Response: Ah, Holy Jesus Sanborn

Alethea Funck

The Shadow of Mockery

Matthew 27:27-31 Reader: Chris Danusiar

Musical Response: Prelude in B flat minor (WTC) J.S. Bach

John Zimmerman

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Matthew 27:32-44 Reader: Colin Holman

Musical Response: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Traditional Folk

Marcus Mayell, Ellie Durbin, Annika Durbin

The Shadow of Death

Luke 23:44-49 Reader: Sue Lundin

Musical Response: Jesus Paid It All Grape/Abernethy

Katie Abernethy

The Shadow of Burial

Mark 15:42-47 Reader: George Garrison

Musical Response: Were You There? Spiritual

The Buursma Family

Strepitus

Dismissal