



TENEBRAE SERVICE
 April 14, 2017
 GOOD FRIDAY

The Service of Tenebrae (which means "darkness" or "shadows") dates back to the seventh or eighth century A.D. The ancient church held this service of darkness near the end of Lent in order to dramatize for believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of our Savior's sacrifice. This service, along with the Lord's Supper, is intended to be a time of serious meditation on the value of Christ's death for you.

The readings from Scripture as well as the hymns and other musical selections focus on the passion and death of Christ, encouraging us to reflect on the suffering endured on our behalf. The dramatic feature of this service is the gradual extinction of the candles and lights. This is intended to remind us of the intensifying sufferings of Christ which culminated in his death.

One candle, the Christ candle, is not extinguished during the service since it is symbolic of the eternal life of Christ and His love. Near the end of the service all celebrative elements and the Christ candle are removed in testimony to the reality of the death and burial of Christ. The Bible is dramatically closed to signify the closing of the tomb and the completion of the sacrifice of Christ.

Child care is provided for children through age 4.

**Please leave quietly after the service.
 May this service be an occasion for each of us
 to reflect on the great sacrifice of Christ for His elect.**

Nothing is so well fitted to put the fear of God, which will preserve men from offending him, into the heart, as an enlightened view of the cross of Christ. There shine spotless holiness, inflexible justice, incomprehensible wisdom, omnipotent power, holy love. None of these excellencies darken or eclipse the other, but every one of them rather gives a lustre to the rest. They mingle their beams, and shine with united eternal splendor: the just Judge, the merciful Father, the wise Governor. Nowhere does justice appear so awful, mercy so amiable, or wisdom so profound.

John Brown

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Prelude – "O God, Be Merciful To Me"
 Silent Prayer by the Congregation

J.S. Bach

Minister: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have sinned and done wrong; we have acted willfully and rebelled against the Lord our Maker. Yet to our God belong mercy and forgiveness. As we prepare for Communion, let us confess our sins. (Silent Confession of sin.)

Unison: We come not because we ought, but because we may, not because we are righteous, but because we are penitent, not because we are strong, but because we are weak, not because we are whole, but because we are broken.

*Hymn of Remembrance - "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" #257

Words of Institution

The Bread (We will partake of the elements
 The Cup together after all have been served.)

Scripture Lesson – 1 Peter 2:20-25

p.1015 in Pew Bibles

Communion Meditation

The Reverend David G. McKay

"ON THE TREE"

Organ Interlude

THE TENEBRAE SERVICE

I. **Jesus Betrayed**

Men: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Women: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (Psalm 51:1,2)

First Reading: Mark 14:43-50

p. 851 in Pew Bible

(First candle extinguished as a reminder that His friends opposed Him.)

***Hymn** - "'Tis Midnight; and on Olive's Brow" #249, v.1 & 3

II. **Jesus Before the Sanhedrin**

Men: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Women: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (Psalm 51:3, 4)

Second Reading: Mark 14:53-65 p.851 in Pew Bible
(Second candle extinguished as a reminder that the religious
leaders also rejected him.)
Hymn - "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" #254

III. Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

Men: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother
conceive me.
Women: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I
will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:5, 7)

Third Reading: Luke 23:1-12 p.883 in Pew Bible
(Third candle extinguished as a reminder that his country rejected Him)
"He Was Wounded" Craig Courtney
Soloist: Julie Covert

IV. Jesus Confronted

Men: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
Women: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me. (Psalm 51:9, 10)

Fourth Reading: Mark 15:6-15 p.852 in Pew Bible
(Fourth candle extinguished as a reminder that the world
turned against Him.)
Hymn – "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" #247

V. Jesus Crucified

Men: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy
Spirit from me.
Women: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a
willing spirit. (Psalm 51:11, 12)

Fifth Reading: Matthew 27:32-46 p.834 in Pew Bible
(Fifth candle extinguished as a reminder that God forsook Him.)
*Hymn – "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #251

VI. Jesus Is Put to Death

Men: For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will
not be pleased with a burnt offering.
Women: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and
contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Psalm 51:16, 17)
Sixth Reading: Luke 23:44-49 p.884 in Pew Bible

(Sixth candle extinguished as a reminder that He bore the sins of the world)
*Hymn - "What Wondrous Love Is This" #261

VII. Jesus Placed in the Tomb

Responsive Reading - Jonah 2:2-9

M: "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me.

C: Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

M: For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas,

**C: and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows
passed over me.**

M: Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight;

C: yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'

M: The waters closed in over me to take my life, the deep surrounded me;

C: weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains.

M: I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;

C: yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

M: When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD,

C: and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

M: Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast
love.

**C: But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I
have vowed I will pay.**

Unison: Salvation belongs to the LORD."

Seventh Reading: John 19:38-42 p.906 in Pew Bible

"Were You There"

Bryan Clark, Julie Covert, Robert Covert, Libby Doublestein

Removal of the Christ Candle

Closing of the Tomb

***The Lord's Prayer** (Whispered by the congregation)

Depart in peace. Please leave the service in silence. We encourage
worshippers to use other services to greet one another and fellowship. We
use this service as an occasion to reflect upon the somber aspects of our
Savior's death.

"Leave out the cross, and you have killed the religion of Jesus. Atonement
by the blood of Jesus is not an arm of Christian truth, it is the heart of it."
Charles Spurgeon