

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE: A service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness,” was first celebrated in the fourth century. It is a service of worship that moves from light to darkness with the fading life of Jesus on the cross. The candle on the altar which represents the life of our Lord is not extinguished but is removed and hidden for a short time just as Christ’s body was hidden in the grave over three days’ time. The noise of the Closing of the Door at the conclusion of the service symbolizes the closing of the tomb. This act completed Christ’s work of suffering and dying in our place.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to worship. We observe the silence of mourners as we gather to witness the suffering and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD’S ABSOLUTION: (*please stand*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Heavenly Father, You have gathered us together at the foot of Your Son’s cross where He suffers for us. We are guilty sinners in need of Your forgiveness, life and salvation.

C: Jesus Christ our Savior has died to take away our sins.

P: All too often we fail to fight against the evil in this world.

C: Jesus Christ our Savior has died to take away our sins.

P: All too often we fail to fight against the evil in our lives.

C: Jesus Christ our Savior has died to take away our sins.

P: All too often we deny and betray our Lord.

C: Jesus Christ our Savior has died to take away our sins.

ALL: We have sinned against You, O Lord, in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions. Have mercy on us, dear God, and grant us Your forgiveness.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of God’s Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

THE RESPONSIVE READING: Lamentations 1:11c-13

P: “Look, O Lord, and consider,

C: for I am despised.

P: Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

C: Look around and see.

P: Is any suffering like My suffering

C: that was inflicted on Me,

P: that the Lord has brought on Me

C: in the day of His fierce anger?

P: From on high He sent fire,

C: sent it down into My bones.

P: He spread a net for My feet

C: and turned Me back.

P: He made Me desolate,

C: and faint all the day long.”

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, we ask You to look with mercy on Your family for whom our Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross.

C: We pray this in the name of that same Jesus who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

(inside back cover of the hymnal)

(please be seated)

HYMN: 422 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

THE SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Behold, My servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

P: This is the Word of our Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 570 “Just As I Am, without One Plea”

SERMON: “To Him Who Overcomes Jesus Will Give the Right to Sit with Him on His Throne” Revelation 3:14-22

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. ¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me. ²¹The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

TENEBRAE READINGS

First Word: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:26-34

The Prayer: P:...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

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Second Word: “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:35-43

The Prayer: P:....through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: 450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” *stanzas 1-4*

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Third Word: “Dear woman, here is your son...here is your mother.”

Scripture Reading: John 19:25-27

The Prayer: P:...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: 447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” *stanzas 7-9*

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Fourth Word: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:45-47

The Prayer: P:...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: 451 “Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted”

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Fifth Word: “I am thirsty”

Scripture Reading: John 19:28-29

The Prayer: P:...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: 452 “O Perfect Life of Love”

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Sixth Word: “It is finished”

Scripture Reading: John 19:30

The Prayer: P:...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: 450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” *stanzas 5-7* Page 5

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Seventh Word: “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.”

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:44-47

The Prayer: P:...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: 456 “Were You There”

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(please stand if you are able)

THE LORD’S PRAYER: (whispered by all)

THE REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CLOSING OF THE BOOK AND TOLLING OF THE BELL:

The harsh noise, traditionally called the *strepitus*, signifies the closing of Jesus’ tomb. The bell tolls 33 times to announce the death of Jesus. We depart in silence. We are left in the darkness of Jesus’ death until we return to His empty tomb on Sunday morning.

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Serving Us in Worship This Evening

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark A. Nebel

Organist: Mr. Ron Baker

The Resurrection of Our Lord- Sunday, April 5

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Holy Communion Service

7:45-8:45 a.m. Refreshments in the church basement

9:00 a.m. Easter Festival Holy Communion Service

Watch and Pray

It is I who should drink the cup of wrath,
Because I insist on my own path.
Give me strength Your will to seek.
Subdue my flesh which is so weak.
Help me watch in wakeful contemplation,
To trust You in the hour of grave temptation.
I'd rather pray, "Make my kingdom come,
And Thy will, as long as mine be done."
Take from me the flood of sorrow,
May my gloom be gone tomorrow.
As each day passes in discontent,
How long will You ignore my deep lament?
Who am I to say what's good to You and bad for me?
I humbly pray, "O, Lord, have mercy."
You know the way of suffering,
Help me to follow Your self-offering,
In living or dying, may I rejoice in Your enduring love.
In happiness or in grief, praising You above.
Jesus shed great drops of blood from His exertion.
And He drank the dregs of woe
But lifts to me the cup of sweet salvation
To sustain me when temped by the foe
Shine Your gracious face upon my sunken heart,
That I never from Your Way depart.