

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

Good Friday
April 15, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Welcome

Explanation of the Service

For many congregations the *Tenebrae* service, usually held on Good Friday, is one of the most moving and meaningful worship services of the year. Christ's suffering is commemorated through Scripture and song. Candles are extinguished one by one as the congregation listens to the account of Christ's suffering and death.

The service of *Tenebrae*, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," has been observed since the fourth century. Traditionally the services were a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering.

The *Tenebrae* service always has a somber tone, reflected in the darkness, in the accounts of Christ's suffering, in the music, and in the silence of the people as they leave the sanctuary.

This night is a night of sadness. We leave soberly, and yet we do so with anticipation because of Jesus words:

Mark 8:31, "He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again."

We invite you to return Easter Sunday to celebrate their fulfillment.

Preparation Scripture

"There were many who were appalled at him, his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness, so he will sprinkle many nations." (Isaiah 52:14-15a)

Prelude

OPENING

Greeting Liturgy

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: The Light has come into the world

People: But the world loved darkness rather than light

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord, who was obedient unto death, even death on a cross

*Hymn: 241, "Thou Dost Reign On High" (1-4)

*Invocation

Meditation: John 19:30, "It Is Finished"

THE SHADOWS

The Shadow of Betrayal

Luke 22:1-23

Hymn: 248, "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended"

The Shadow of Agony

Luke 22:24-34, 39-46

Hymn: 247, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

The Shadow of Desertion and Denial

Luke 22:47-62

Hymn: 257, "Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted"

The Shadow of Accusation

Luke 22:63-23:25

Hymn: 261, "What Wondrous Love Is This"

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Luke 23:26-43

Hymn: 256, "There Is A Green Hill Far Away"

The Shadow of Death

Luke 23:44-49

Hymn: 252, "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"

The Shadow of Burial

Luke 23:50-56

Hymn: 260, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord" (1-4)

Darkness

Silent Meditation

The congregation leaves in silence.