

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 2, 2021

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows” has been practiced by the church since Medieval times (that is, for hundreds of years, since the Middle Ages). Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae since became an important part of Holy Week for non-monastic, common folk. This evening we join Christians 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 day. 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 overwhelming sound of the “strepitus”; and through the return of the small but persistent light of the eternal flame (Christ candle) at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.

Gathering *(enter in silence)*

Greeting:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, **who redeems us from sin and death.**

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one, God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: “What Wondrous Love Is This” #666

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| 1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, o my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul? | 2. When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul. |
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*Text: North American folk tune. Music: W. Walker, arr. Paul J Christiansen. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House.
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Service of the Word

Readings: Isaiah 52:13—53:12 and Hebrews 10:16-25

Clarinet Solo: “Old Rugged Cross”

Silence for meditation

Prayers at the conclusion of each prayer when the pastor prays “through Christ our Lord” the congregation replies: **Amen.**

Service of Shadows

The Shadow of Betrayal and Arrest

Reading: John 18:1-11

“Ah, Holy Jesus” #349

1. Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.
2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

Text: Johann Heermann. Music: Johann Cruger. Public Domain

The Shadow of Denial

Reading: John 18:12-27

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” #347

1. Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter’s pow’r,
your Redeemer’s conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

Text: James Montgomery. Music: Richard Redhead. Public Domain

The Shadow of Pilate’s Question

Reading: John 18:28-40

“Ah, Holy Jesus” #349

3. Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.
4. For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Text: Johann Heermann. Music: Johann Cruger. Public Domain

The Shadow of Accusation

Reading: John 19:1-16

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” —Trio: piano, clarinet and voice

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation

Reading: John 19:16b-22

“Jesus I Will Ponder Now” #345

1. Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
let your Spirit now endow me for meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
of your suff’ring, pain, and death, that I may not perish.
3. Yet, O Lord, not thus alone make me see your passion;
but its cause to me make known and its termination.
For I also and my sin wrought your deep affliction;
this the shameful cause has been of your crucifixion.

Text: Sigismund von Birken. Music: Melchoir Vulpius. Public Domain

The Shadow of Death

Reading: John 19:23-30

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #803

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Text: Isaac Watts. Music: Lowell Mason. Public Domain

Christ Candle is Removed

The Shadow of Burial

Reading: John 19:31-42

“Were You There” —clarinet solo

Eternal Flame Restored *silent meditation*

Hymn: *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #803*

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts; Music: Lowell Mason. Public Domain

Dismissal

May Jesus Christ who for our sakes became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you. **Amen.**

please depart in silence

*Thank you to our musicians this evening:
Brad Miller (voice), Nadine Heck (clarinet) and Deb Mahoney (piano)*