

A TENEBRAE SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

March 30, 2018

[*Tenebrae* is a Latin term meaning “*shadows, darkness.*” The service is an ancient form of worship dating from the fourth century. The tone is very somber as candles are extinguished, and the sanctuary is gradually darkened to remind worshipers of the three hours of darkness which blanketed the earth during Christ’s crucifixion as He suffered the punishment of being forsaken by God for our sins. The strepitus at the end of the service is the sound of a harsh noise signifying the earthquake when Jesus died and His tomb was closed. It marks the end of the Good Friday service. The congregation will leave in silence and will return for the brilliant dawning of Easter morning.]

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Youth Choir *Above All*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:

C: Amen. (spoken)

P: Lord Jesus, You carried our sins in Your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in You now and in the world to come, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: All we, like sheep, have gone astray:

C: And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

P: O Savior of the world, by Your cross and passion, through which You have brought life and joy into the world.

C: Be gracious to us according to Your mercy and bless us and lift up the light of Your countenance upon us and give us Your peace.

P: Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour You bore our sins in Your own body on the tree, so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and through Your grace eternal glory in the life to come, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You live and reign, God forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

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P: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

C: Grant us peace.

P: Almighty and most merciful God, give us grace to contemplate the passion of our Lord Christ that we may find in it the forgiveness of our sins; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen

Hymn 174 *Throned Upon the Awe-full Tree*

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

(The Song of the Suffering Servant)

P: 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 –

C: 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.

P: Who has believed what they heard from us?

C: And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

P: 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.

C: 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.

P: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.

C: 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.

P: 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 transgressions of My people?

C: 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.

P: Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin, 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.

C: There 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 the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir *Behold the Man!*

I. THE FIRST WORD
(Extinguishing of candle)

Hymn 169 *Jesus Christ, Our Lord Most Holy*

II. THE SECOND WORD
(Extinguishing of candle)

Hymn 724 *Jesus, Remember Me*

III. THE THIRD WORD
(Extinguishing of candle)

Hymn 172:1-4, 9 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

IV. THE FOURTH WORD
(Extinguishing of candle)

Hymn 167:1-4 *O Darkest Woe*

Offering

V. THE FIFTH WORD
(Extinguishing of candle)

Hymn 167:1-4 *O Darkest Woe*

VI. THE SIXTH WORD
(Extinguishing of candle)

Hymn 167:5-7 *O Darkest Woe*

VII. THE SEVENTH WORD
(Extinguishing of candle)

Benediction The congregation softly speaks the Lord's Prayer.

The Strepitus -- Sealing of the Tomb.

Worshippers are asked to leave the service quietly.

Tolling of the Bell

Our celebration of Christ's Resurrection begins Sunday at 9:30.

