

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

Good Friday
April 7, 2023
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

Scripture Reading Matthew 27:32-44 (Pew Bible p. 705)

Meditation: "The Place of a Skull" Pastor Heaton

THE SHADOWS

The Shadow of Betrayal Matthew 26:14-25

Hymn: 254, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

The Shadow of Agony Matthew 26:36-46

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

The Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:31-35, 47-56

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

The Shadow of Accusation Matthew 26:57-27:2, 11-26

"God So Loved The World" (John 3:16-17) TPC Choir

The Shadow of Crucifixion Matthew 27:27-44

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (#247) TPC Choir

The Shadow of Death Matthew 27:45-54

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

The Shadow of Burial Matthew 27:57-66

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

Darkness

Silent Meditation

The congregation leaves in silence.