

Good Friday



THE
SEVEN
LAST
WORDS

Tenebrae

What Does This Mean?

Tonight's service is a continuation of the service begun last night with Maundy Thursday worship, and will therefore not include an opening hymn. The Service of Tenebrae (darkness) visually reminds us of the extinguishing of the life of Jesus, the Light of the World, at the hands of sinners. As the Gospel of the Lord's suffering is read, candles will be extinguished, symbolizing Christ's descent into death for our sins. The lights of the church will eventually be extinguished to mark the closing of the tomb.

The congregation gathers in silence.

The "Order of Tenebrae" is an early Christian order of worship traditionally utilized in the observance of Good Friday. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "darkness" or "in the shadows," and the service is characterized by the gradual removal of light from the sanctuary as the scriptural accounts approach the moment of the death of our Lord. It is not to be considered a funeral service for Jesus, but rather a time of repentance as we consider His Passion for us.

The exit of the Christ candle, near the close of the service, signifies Christ's death and burial. As the last candle is removed, a loud sound will be heard. The "strepitus" (pronounced STREP-ee-toose, meaning "loud noise") at the conclusion of the service symbolizes the earth shaking and rocks splitting (Matt. 27:51) at Jesus' death, and foreshadows the "violent earthquake" (Matt. 28:2) at the opening of Jesus' tomb on Easter morning. The Christ candle is not extinguished at any time during the service, as it is symbolic of the eternal light of God's love. Though evil had its hour, the light of God's love continues to burn to all eternity. ***Join us here on Easter Sunday morning and rejoice in the glorious message of the Risen Christ!***

Following the silent prayer at the close of the service, worshipers will depart in silence. We ask that there be no speaking until you have left the church grounds. We retire to our homes in contemplation of the meaning of Christ's death for us and in the certain hope of the Easter victory soon to be celebrated

As Christ's crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, altar paraments, the pastor's and acolyte's cassocks, and the shrouds are black, symbolizing humiliation, mourning, and death.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

+*Lighting of the candles*

+INVOCATION

+CONFESSION OF SINS

P: O Christ, thou Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world

C: *Have mercy upon us.*

P: O Christ, thou Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world

C: *Have mercy upon us.*

P: O Christ, thou Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world

C: *Grant us Thy peace. AMEN.*

+ABSOLUTION (*Pastor*)

The almighty and merciful God grant unto you, being truly penitent, complete pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of His Holy Spirit.

Amen



+COLLECT

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, through Your agony and sweat, scourging and suffering, crying and dying, You take away the sin of the world. Lead us to the cross where, with repentant hearts, we may humbly receive the gifts of Your redeeming love; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+THE MEDITATIONS: “The Seven Last Words”

The First Sentence: “*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.*”
(Luke 23:34)

Hymn: #447 [verses 1-3] (1st candle extinguished)

The Second Sentence: “*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in
paradise.*” (Luke 23:43)

Hymn: #447 [verses 4-6] (2nd candle extinguished)

The Third Sentence: “*Woman, behold your Son! Behold, your mother.*”
(John 19:26-27)

Hymn: #447 [verses 7-9] (3rd candle extinguished)

The Fourth Sentence: “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?*”
(Matthew 27:46)

Hymn: #447 [verses 10-12] (4th candle extinguished)

The Fifth Sentence: “*I thirst.*” (John 19:28)

Hymn: #447 [verses 13-15] (5th candle extinguished)

The Sixth Sentence: “*It is finished*” (John 19:30)

Hymn: #447 [verses 16-18] (6th candle extinguished)

The Seventh Sentence: “*Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit!*”
(Luke 23:46)

Hymn: #447 [verses 19-21] (7th candle extinguished)

+THE LORD’S PRAYER *The Christ candle is removed to signify the burying of Christ*

+THE STREPITUS

+SILENT PRAYER

LEAVE IN SILENCE

Note: There will be no benediction or postlude. After your prayer, please leave the church silently. You may leave an offering at the door as you depart.

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