

The Good Friday service of Tenebrae (meaning darkness) dates back to the 8th century A.D. It is characterized by the successive extinguishing of candles as the service progresses. The darkness is meant to impress on us the natural condition of our sinful hearts, the terrible reality of the separation from God we deserve because of our rebellion against Him, and the unnatural darkness which fell on the land from noon until the hour of three o'clock on the day Jesus died.

Near the end of the service the Christ Candle will be removed signifying Jesus' death and burial. The abrupt Closing of the Door symbolizes the sealing of the tomb. The Christ Candle will return to its place in anticipation of the Lord's resurrection from the grave on the third day, and of our own resurrections when Jesus returns again.

## THE SERVICE

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

**C: Amen**

### Psalm 22 Selected verses

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C: Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?**

P: O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

**C: They trusted and you delivered them.**

P: In you our fathers put their trust;

**C: Scorned by men and despised by the people.**

P: But I am a worm and not a man,

**C: Scorned by men and despised by the people.**

P: All who see me mock me:

**C: They hurl insults, shaking their heads;**

P: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint

**C: My heart has turned to wax. It has melted away within me.**

P: Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,  
**C: They have pierced my hands and feet.**

P: They divide my garments among them  
**C: And cast lots for my clothing**

P: But you, O Lord, be not far off;  
**C: O my strength, come quickly to help me.**

P: I will declare your name to my brothers;  
**C: In the congregation I will praise you.**

School choir: - 1:00 pm "O Crucified Messiah" (Insert)  
Choir: 6:30 pm "Like a Lamb" (Insert)

### **Jesus' "Seven Words" From the Cross**

*(Please join in speaking the prayer at the end of each meditation)*

1. Reading & Meditation: Luke 23:32-34 **"Prayer"**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, touch us with your hands which the sins of the world pierced with nails, and forgive our ignorance. Lord, we knew not, indeed, we know not what we did in sinning against you. Touch us to forgive and to bless, for your endless mercy's sake. Amen

**HYMN: 112 v.1-4 "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"**

2. Reading & Meditation: Luke 23:36-43 **"Promise"**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, look on us with your eyes as you looked upon the thief on the cross, that with him we may confess our sins and humbly ask, "Remember us when you come into your kingdom." Make us your willing servants for your endless mercy's sake. Amen

**HYMN: 127 v.1-3 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”**

3. Reading & Meditation: John 19:26-27 **“Provision”**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with your love as in your pain you comforted your mother, provided for her need, and gave her both a home and son. To such selfless love, without limit, lead us, O Lord, now and forever. Amen

**Hymn: 129 v.1-3 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”**

4. Reading & Meditation: Matthew 27:45-46 **“Position”**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, fill us with faith since in your last agony you cried out to your Father, “My God, my God,” so that no suffering, no shadow of doubt may darken our trust in you, nor separate us from your Father and ours, now or ever. Amen

**HYMN: 98 v.1,2,4 “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”**

5. Reading & Meditation: John 19:28 **“Pain”**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, lead us to see your thirst as you suffered in your humanity, that we might drink from you and never be thirsty again, but live in your Father’s house forever. Amen.

**HYMN: 120 v.1 & 4 “What Wondrous Love Is This”**

6. Reading & Meditation: John 19:29-30 **“Perfection”**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, give us your strength as you resolved to do your Father’s work and finish it. Evening and

morning we live in hope knowing that your great work for us is completed, to the glory of your saving name. Amen.

**HYMN: 379 "Amazing Grace"**

7. Reading & Meditation: Luke 23:44-46 **"Presentation"**

**(The Closing of the Tomb, and Silence.....)**

**The Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

**HYMN: 119 "Were You There"**

8. Reading & Meditation: Mark 15:39 **"Proclamation"**  
(Christ Candle is returned)

**The Benediction**

**CLOSING HYMN: 125 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

**Silent Prayer and Dismissal**

May the Lord bless us as we depart in peace and silence, fully reassured of Jesus' boundless love for sinners like us.

PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY MORNING AS WE CELEBRATE THE  
FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR SAVIOR AND KING

**Easter Festival Service:** 8 or 10:45 am Breakfast between the services