

Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
830 N 1st Avenue, Tucson, AZ

April 22, 2011

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The Service of Darkness
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Tenebrae
Tenebrae is the Latin word for “darkness.” The Officium Tenebrae, the Service of Darkness, is a devotional and meditative service held on Good Friday to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The Service of Darkness is not a funeral service for Jesus but a time for adoration of the Lamb of God in which we celebrate his sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. The darkness in the church symbolizes the miraculous Tenebrae, the darkness which surrounded the cross and darkened the earth from noon until three o’clock on the day Jesus died.

SEVEN CANDLES
There are seven candles in the front of the church. Throughout the service the candles are extinguished and the lights are dimmed representing the extinguishing of the life of Jesus. The seventh candle is not extinguished but it is removed from the chancel. Just as Christ’s body was hidden in the grave until the third day so also is the seventh candle removed from sight for a short time. It is returned to its place at the end of the service foreshadowing Christ’s return from death to life.

SILENCE
In keeping with the solemnity of the day, there is no pre-service or post-service music. The service begins in silence and ends in silence. Worshipers are invited to remain after the service for as long as they wish for prayer and meditation. All are asked to leave the sanctuary, the courtyard and the parking lot in silence. The stillness and darkness of tonight are intended to contrast with the bright and glorious celebration of Easter morning.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

PRESERVICE: Silence for Meditation

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of Jesus who loves us and died for us.
C: Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M: Come let us worship the Lord,
C: Who was obedient to death, even death on a cross.
M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
C: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
M: We live by faith in the Son of God,
C: Who loved us and gave himself for us.
M: Christ loved us and gave himself up for us
C: As a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

M: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross.
C: Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Seventh Word - Luke 23:44-56

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - The Seventh candle is not extinguished, but it is removed from view, just as Christ was, for a time, hidden from sight in the tomb.

PRAYER

SOLO “Were You There?”

The Seventh Candle is returned to the chancel, foreshadowing the Resurrection.
Even on Good Friday we worship the living Christ, the guarantor that we, too, will never die.

You are invited to remain after the service for prayer and meditation.

OFFERINGS to our Savior may be left in the plates at the doors before you leave.

PLEASE LEAVE THE SANCTUARY, COURTYARD, AND PARKING LOT IN SILENCE.

TENEBRAE PARTICIPANTS

- Worship LeaderPastor Sam Clemons
- OrganistTina Christianson
- Voices of Grace Director Beth Kassulke
- Keyboard Duet Teri Guenther & Beth Kassulke
- Psalm Cantors Pastor Ron Koehler & Pastor Nathan Kassulke
- Soloist Earnestine Goodlow
- Trumpet Pastor Nathan Kassulke
- Candles..... Taylor Parra
- Lighting..... Robert Parra
- Sound Tech Jeff Weinstein

The Fifth Word - John 19:28-29

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “*I am thirsty.*” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for meditation - Fifth candle is extinguished.

VOICES OF GRACE

Lift up your eyes, O see Him there, high on the cross He had to bear, His nail-pierced hands, His thorn-crowned brow; lift up your eyes, O see Him now.

With gentle eyes so filled with love, He gazes high to heav’n above; “Father, forgive them,” hear Him pray; His words take all our guilt away.

Forsakened Friend, rejected Lord, He faced alone the piercing sword; He gave His life so willingly; He shed His blood unselfishly, He shed His blood unselfishly.

The Sixth Word - John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “*It is finished.*”

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

1. Oh, perfect life of love!
All, all is finished now,
All that he left his throne above
To do for us below.

5. In perfect love he dies;
For me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
You died to make me free!

Silence for meditation - Sixth candle is extinguished.

BE SEATED

HYMN

Stanza 1: All
Stanza 3: Men

Stanza 4: Women
Stanza 6: All

God Was There on Calvary
Christian Worship #140 st. 1, 3, 4, 6

SERMON

“The Miraculous Love of God” **1 Peter 3:18**

Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

HYMN


What Grace Is This!
Christian Worship Supplement #715



1 What grace is this! My Lord and King Has set his
2 What grace is this— That ve - ry God Would stoop to
3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all, He yields to
4 What grace is this! Rude a - gon - ies! With com - mon
5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths And gent - ly
6 What grace is this? How can it be? He wears this



face to suf - fer - ing. My God e - ter - nal dies to
lift a cross of wood And walk a road of rock and
Pon - tius Pil - ate's law And lets the Ro - man ham - mers
thieves he hangs and bleeds. The sin - less Son bears each mis -
laid in man - ger - trough, He's tak - en, dead, from wretch - ed
raw hu - mil - i - ty To lift me to e - ter - ni -



bring E - ter - nal life to me.
blood, A sin - ner's road, for me.
draw A rush of blood for me.
deed. He pays for all, for me.
cross And wrapped a - gain for me.
ty. Such grace— sweet grace— for me.

Last time

THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

(Silence for meditation follows each reading, then a candle is extinguished.)

The First Word - Luke 23:26-34

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then ““they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”” For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”** And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - First candle is extinguished.

KEYBOARD DUET - Via Dolorosa

The Second Word - Luke 23:38-43

There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, **“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - Second candle is extinguished.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Christian Worship #125 st. 1, 3, & 4

The Third Word - John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **“Dear woman, here is your son,”** and to the disciple, **“Here is your mother.”** From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - Third candle is extinguished.

VOICES OF GRACE

“Jesus Died for Me”
By Jay Althouse

When Jesus died, He gave His love forever.
When Jesus died, He set me free.
When Jesus died, my sins were all forgiven.
Jesus died for me, oh, Jesus died for me.

Jesus, on a cross upon a hill: crucified, left to die.
Jesus gave His life that we may live.
Why, oh, Lord, why?

God gave His son to be my true salvation.
God gave His son that I may see
His sacrifice, His anguish, and His sorrow.
Jesus died for me, oh, Jesus died for me.

When Jesus died, He saved us all forever.
When Jesus died on Calvary, God gave His son
that we may know His mercy.
Jesus died for me, oh, Jesus died for me.

The Fourth Word - Matthew 27:45-49

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, **“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”**—which means, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - Fourth candle is extinguished.

PSALM 22 (Congregation may join in singing the refrains)

Refrain



Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me?
I am a worm and not a man,
Scorned by men and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me;
They hurl insults, shaking their heads:
“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Refrain

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
You lay me in the dust of death.
A band of evil men has encircled me,
They have pierced my hands and my feet.
They divide my garments among them
And cast lots for my clothing.
But you, O LORD, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Refrain