

# Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Christ on the Cross (detail) by Diego Velazquez - 1632

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
830 N 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Tucson, AZ

April 18, 2014

# Good Friday Tenebrae Service

## The Service of Darkness

### **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**

Minister: In the name of Jesus who loves us and died for us.

Congregation: Amen.

### **RESPONSIVE READING**

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.**

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus  
Christian Worship #117  
Accompanied by: Clarinet Trio

*The congregation will sing stanzas 1-5 & 7.*

*The congregation is encouraged to reflect on the words of stanza 6 as it is played by the clarinet trio.*



1. O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken  
2. They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;  
3. Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
4. What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!  
5. The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;

That such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken? Of what great  
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge you; They give you  
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish; Yes, all the  
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der; The Mas - ter -  
The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness; We for - feit -

crime have you to make con - fes - ion What dark trans - gres - sion?  
gall to drink, they still de - cry you; They cru - ci - fy you.  
wrath, the woe that you in - her - it, This I do mer - it.  
pays the debt his ser - vants owe him, Who would not know him.  
ed our lives, yet are ac - quit - ted God is com - mit - ted.

Clarinets Only

6. *I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do your will shall be my sole endeavor  
Henceforth forever.*

7. And when, dear Lord, before your throne in heaven  
To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
Where sweetest hymns your saints forever raise you,  
I too shall praise you.

SERMON

“He Took Your Place”

Matthew 27:46

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice...  
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”



1 In si - lent pain th' e - ter - nal Son Hangs  
 2 He died that we might die to sin And  
 3 For strife he came, to bring a sword, The

der - e - licit and still; In dark - ened day his  
 live for right - eous - ness; The earth is stained to  
 truth to end all lies; To rule in us, our

work is done, Ful - filled his Fa - ther's will. Up -  
 make us clean And bring us in - to peace. For  
 pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies: For

lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang - est  
 peace he came and met its cost; He gave him - self to  
 in his hand he holds the stars, His voice shall speak to

vic - to - ry, For in his bo - dy on the  
 save the lost; He loved us to the ut - ter -  
 end our wars, And those who love him see his

tree He car - ries all our ill.  
 most And paid for our re - lease.  
 scars And look in - to his eyes.

## 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.*

## PIANO 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

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Arr. By Craig Courtney

*Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?  
Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, thine and bathed in its own blood,  
While all exposed to wrath divine the glorious Suff'rer stood!*

*Was it for crimes that I have done, He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!  
Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut its glories in,  
When God, the mighty maker, died for His own creature's sin!*

*Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears;  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes with tears.  
But drops of tears can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe.  
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.*

## 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 *(The congregation may join in singing the refrains)*

### *Refrain*



My God, am I forsaken? Why turn from me your eyes?  
Why cease to know my anguish, Or hear my heartfelt cries?

### *Refrain*

The faithful ones before me Found favor by their trust;  
While, I, despised, tormented, Am cast into the dust.

### *Refrain*

With scorn my foes deride me, Their taunts my faith would move;  
Yet firm in my conviction, Deep-rooted in your love.

### *Refrain*

My God, my sure salvation, Be near me all my days;  
Whatever may befall me, Remain my strength always.

### *Refrain*

## 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.*

*Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour.  
Turn not from His griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.*

*Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned.  
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame or loss; learn of Him to bear the cross.*

*Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet,  
Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete!  
“It is finished!” hear Him cry. Learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

### 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

Oh, Perfect Life of Love  
Christian Worship #138 stanzas 1 & 5

**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.*

### 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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

**SOLO**

## “Were You There?”

*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 Leader .....	Pastor Sam Clemons
Reader .....	Pastor Ron Koehler
Accompanist.....	Teri Guenther
Voices of Grace Director .....	Beth Kassulke
Piano Duet.....	Teri Guenther & Beth Kassulke
Worship Choir Director.....	Teri Guenther
Clarinet Trio.....	Elaine Goldie, Beth Kassulke, Missy Wiechmann
Soloists .....	Beth Kassulke & Diane Kramm
Trumpet.....	Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Candles.....	Lucas Guenther
Lighting .....	Ferdie Kramm, Robert Parra & Jeff Weinstein
Sound Tech .....	Jeff Weinstein

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