

A LITURGY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

Tenebrae Service

ORDER OF TENEBRAE

You are asked to meditate on the fact that it was on the Thursday evening before Good Friday that Jesus and his disciples were together for the last time, when he and they stood in the shadow of the cross, when he washed their feet and instituted the Holy Supper.

Tenebrae is the Latin word for shadows. The gradual extinguishing of the lights is symbolic of the advancing darkness that came over Jesus during the night of his arrest, with the flight of the disciples, the bitter hate of his enemies and the looming shadow of the cross. The moments of total darkness recalls the time when he was in the tomb.

The relighting of the central candle is a prophecy of Easter so soon to dawn.

We ask you to observe the rule of silence throughout the service.

It ends with the relighting of the central candle, after which the congregation *leaves the church in silence* and go home still meditating the experience of Tenebrae.

- *There will be no announcements during the service. Please follow the order.*
- *A warm welcome to all visitors to our congregation.*

Call to Worship . Romans 8: 38 - 39

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Hymns of Approach (Music of “Rock of Ages”

Go to dark Gethsemane,
ye that feel the temp'ters power;
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 bitter cup, the gall!

O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
learn of Christ to bear a cross.

Calvary'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 of Jesus Christ to die.

1.1. Music of “When I survey”.

O sacred head with grief weighed down,
with thorny bush your only crown!
How pale you are, abused and scorned,
your countenance, now blood adorned!

What shall I say, dear heavenly Friend?
Your shame and suff'ring, I cannot mend!

But let me never faithless be,
your dying love – it was for me!

O sacred Christ, so cruelly crowned –
no greater love or grace to be found.
O Jesus let me worship thee,
so scorned, so mocked on Calvary!

2. Prayer of Adoration and Confession of sins.

We worship you, we give thanks to you, o LORD. You are the one living and true God, who is Spirit, personal, infinite, and eternal, present in every place, the almighty Author and sovereign Lord of all; most blessed, most holy, and most free; perfect in wisdom, justice, truth and love; to us most merciful and gracious; unto whom only we must cleave, whom only we must worship and obey.

To You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be glory forever.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In Jesus, born of Mary, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, opened blind eyes, and broke bread with outcasts and sinners. Dying on the cross, he gave himself for the life of the world. Raised from the grave, he won for his people victory over death. We praise you that Christ now reigns with you and will come again to make all things new.

Forgive us our sins. Purify us and cleanse us, o Lord. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until we feast with you and all your people in the fullness of your glory and joy.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in unity with the Holy Spirit, belong to you all glory and honour, eternal God, now and forevermore!

Grant us, o Lord, peaceful fellowship with you and with each other.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

3. Scripture Reading and short sermon / devotion.

4. *Music of "Lead kindly night"*

O sacred head, with thorny bush weighed down,
your brutal crown!

How pale you are, abused and cursed and
scorned,
and blood adorned.

Lord let me never, never faithless be,
till death you loved, were sacrificed for me!

What can I say, my suffering, heavenly Friend?
at Calvary!

Your shame and pain I know I cannot mend!
It was for me.

O Jesus let me always worship thee,
so scorned, so mocked on cruel Calvary!

O sacred Lamb of God who died for me,
with holy love!
What can I say to laud and worship thee,
God from above.
Lord, let me never, never faithless be,
but praise such love, your sacrifice for me!

Jesus who died and suffered hell and death,
on Calvary!
You grace and mercy now will set me free,
Lord, let it be!
O Christ my Saviour, let me worship Thee,
till death you loved, were sacrificed for me!

4.1 Prayer of thanksgiving and intercession.

Let us pray: Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you that in your great love you have brought us together tonight to experience the darkness of the night of your arrest, that we may with more commitment and thanksgiving praise and worship you for the eternal Light we gained when Jesus laid down his life for his friends.

Grant us the grace to live according to the Gospel Truth we have heard and experienced tonight.

When we remember that Thursday night when you washed the feet of your disciples, when you instituted your Holy Supper, when you were denied and betrayed, when you anguished in Gethsemane, awaiting the wrath of God for our sins, when your emotions became dark and sad - as we remember the darkness of that night - speak to us through your Word and urge us to repent, because we have done this to you by our sins, impurity and disobedience.

Father and God of Light and truth - help us to accept your love for us;

teach us how to believe when the world around us become dark;

change our hearts that we will expect that the Light of the World is our Redeemer from darkness and our Saviour from the judgement of God.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Congregation recites or sings together:

Our Father who art in heaven;

Hallowed by thy name

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive them that trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Forever and ever, Amen.

The readers take their places around the Table.

5. READINGS AND MUSIC.

FIRST READER: Luke 22: 39 - 48

1st candle extinguished.

SECOND READER: Luke 22: 54 - 62.

2nd candle extinguished.

Music depicting betrayal and denial.

THIRD READER: Matt 27: 22 - 31

3rd candle extinguished.

FOURTH READER: Luke 23: 26 - 28.

4th candle extinguished.

FIFTH READER: Matt 27: 33 - 40

5th candle extinguished.

SIXTH READER: Luke 23: 39 – 43 and John 19: 25 - 27.

6th candle extinguished.

Music depicting mourning.

SEVENTH READER: Luke 23 : 44 - 54

7th candle extinguished.

Music depicting death.

Minister: With a loud cry, Jesus, breathed His last...

The minister extinguishes the central candle.

Total darkness represents that Jesus was in the tomb

SILENCE

After a pause the minister relights the central candle and says:

On the 3rd day, He rose again!

And leave the sanctuary immediately. The congregation follows.