



April 3, 2026 ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service
7:30 p.m. Worship (*Sanctuary*)

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE, meaning “darkness” or “shadows”, has been practiced by the Church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship services during Holy Week. Tonight we join Christians through the ages and throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays His paths, and the power of silence and darkness suggest the drama of this momentous day. We remember that God revealed His great love for us most fully in the cross of Jesus Christ.

Welcome and Work of God’s People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Music in Preparation for Worship

Louis Vierne

Préambule from 24 Pièces en Style Libre

Layla Joshi, Organ

Introit *Behold the Lamb of God*

Bouman

Choristers; Linda Lockart, Director

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Duet Hailey Frampton and Sofia Rubcich

***Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

Rev. Spencer

Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ.

We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love’s ultimate sacrifice.

Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God’s love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world’s distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.

Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.

continued

Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called "Good."

Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might have the faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.

Let us worship God!

Hymn (verses 1, 2) *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine;
Yet though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.

Solemn Reproaches of the Cross (*responsive*)

Rev. Wes Allen

Each recitation will end with:

... but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Concluding Unison Response: **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (*responsive*)

Hear, receive and trust the gospel: Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Anthem *O Vos Omnes (Lam. 1:12)*

Croce

Adult Choir; Linda Lockart, Director

*O vos omnes qui transitis per viam,
Attendit et videte, et videte,
Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus,*

Is it nothing to you, all ye who pass by?
Behold and see, behold and see if there be any sorrow
like unto my sorrow

Scripture Reading

Rev. Spencer

Luke 23: 44-49 (Pew Bible NT pg. 88)

"Into Your Hands"***Hymn 'Tis Midnight; and on Olive's Brow (verses 1, 4)**

'Tis midnight; and on Olive's brow the star is dimmed that lately shone.

'Tis midnight; in the garden now the suffering Savior prays alone.

'Tis midnight; and from heavenly plains is borne the song that angels know;

Unheard by mortals are the strains that sweetly soothe the Savior's woe.

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS (Tenebrae)**Shadow of Betrayal**

Matthew 26:17-29 (Pew Bible NT pg. 29)

Leonard Fitts

Response: Recitative, Thy Rebuke Hath Broken His Heart (Psalm 69:20)

Handel

Air Behold, And See if There be Any Sorrow from "Messiah"

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

David Charris, Tenor

Shadow of Abandonment and Arrest

Matthew 26:31-35 (Pew Bible NT pg. 30)

Rev. Kathy Eagles

Response: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (congregation sings):

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,

for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?

O Make me think forever; and should I fainting be,

Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Shadow of Loneliness

Matthew 26:36-46 (Pew Bible NT pg. 30)

Amit Joshi

Response: A Lenten Love Song

Kemp

Ubi Caritas; Where love and charity prevail

Choristers; Linda Lockart, Director

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Shadow of Accusation

Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29 (Pew Bible NT pg. 32)

Rev. Mark Budka

Solo: Were You There?

Spiritual

Amanda Schkeeper, Alto

Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation

Luke 23:32-43 (Pew Bible NT pg. 89)

Rev. Wes Allen

Solo: *Were You There?*

Spiritual

Jennifer Wait, Soprano

Shadow of Death

Mark 15:33-39 (Pew Bible NT pg. 54)

Cheryl Gaskill

Anthem: *Thy Will Be Done*

Courtney

Adult Choir; Linda Lockart, Director

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Shadow of Burial

John 19:38-42; Isaiah 53:5-9 (Pew Bible NT pg. 114 NT; OT pg. 683)

Rev. Spencer

Congregation Sings

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

All depart in silence

7:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

Organist: Layla Joshi
Organist/Pianist: Kathy Gunsallus
Audio Technician: Harris E. Ransom
Live Stream: Jonathan Nawrocki
Ushers: John Miller and Owen Dietz
Readers: Rev. Wes Allen, Rev. Stuart Spencer, Leonard Fitts, Amit Joshi,
Rev. Mark Budka, Cheryl Gaskill, Rev. Kathy Eagles
Choirs: Adult Choir and Choristers

Easter Sunday, April 5: Worship with us at 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service (Cemetery Cross); 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary); and 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Commons).

Church office is closed on Easter Monday, April 6.