



April 18, 2025

***Service of Darkness
(Tenebrae)***

Since the eighth century Christians have observed the Office of Tenebrae, or, The Service of Darkness, recalling the darkness which fell on the earth at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. The holy table is bare except for seven lighted candles. After each reading, one of the candles is extinguished, and the lights of the church progressively grow dimmer.

At the end of the worship, with the church in complete darkness, the loud closing of the lectern Bible represents the sealing of Jesus' tomb with the stone. Then a bell will solemnly toll—once for each year of his earthly life. Please honor the total silence as we rise and depart the church.

Good Friday Service

Seven o'clock Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

Prelude & Musette

Jean Langlais

*Call to Worship (Lamentations 1:12; Romans 5:8, John 1:36)

One: Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

All: Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

One: God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**All: Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away
the sins of the world.**

*Hymn 221

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

PASSION CHORALE

Invocation

Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross. Save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing him who died for us, we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love. Guide us tonight through these prayers and scripture to open our minds and hearts to the saving grace and everlasting salvation which comes through our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, in this hour of solemn remembrance
we acknowledge with sorrow and shame
that our sins sent our blessed Lord to the cross.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

We confess with penitence that we have been slow
to accept that forgiveness of sins
and cleansing from all unrighteousness which, by his death,
he sealed for us as the free gift of God.

Lord, have mercy on us.

We have not always entered into the fellowship of his sufferings,
and have charged thee with indifference to sorrow and pain.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

May the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,
free you from all your sins by his blood, for the sake of his wounds
pardon all your transgressions, and by his stripes grant you healing,
both of body and of mind. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Passion of Jesus Christ

The First Reading

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

The Second Reading

When I Survey the Wonderful Cross

Mary McDonald, Isaac Watts

The Third Reading

What Wondrous Love Is This

Larry Shackley

The Fourth Reading

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend

The Fifth Reading

Cross Cry

Gilbert M. Martin

The Sixth Reading

Thy Will Be Done

Craig Courtney

The Seventh Reading

Congregational Hymn 228

Were You There
(First phrase of each verse solo, then all join)

African American Spiritual

The Closing of the Lectern Bible

The Tolling of the Bell
(33 times)

You may remain for meditation as you wish. When you leave, please depart in silence.

There is no Benediction this evening, as this service will continue Easter Sunday morning
at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

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