

Tenebrae Service

The service of Tenebrae (which means “darkness” or “shadows”) is not a new development in church liturgy. It has been observed in the church since medieval times.

The service usually consists in the reading of a number of Scripture passages. In our case this evening, there will be seven readings followed by the extinguishing of a candle after each reading and the singing of a hymn.

A Tenebrae Service always has a somber tone, reflected in the darkness, in the accounts of Christ’s suffering, in the music, and in the silence of the people as they leave the Sanctuary. But, underlying the somber feeling is the anticipation of the Resurrection which is mirrored in the “Christ candle”.

There are a total of eight candles used in the service. After each reading a candle is extinguished, until only one candle remains, and it is called the “Christ candle”. The “Christ candle” always remains lit, but it is hidden for a time near the end of the service to symbolize Christ’s being taken away to the grave. The candle is then brought back into view to remind us of the hope of the Resurrection.

“The Power of the Cross”

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
nailed to a cross of wood.

chorus: This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on Your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
crowning Your bloodstained brow.

chorus

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
‘Finished!’ the victory cry.

chorus

Oh to see my name written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live
won through Your selfless love!

final chorus: This the power of the cross Son of God - slain for us.
What a love, what a cost we stand forgiven at the cross.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend / CCLI 209271



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Good Friday

Tenebrae Service

April 15, 2022

7:00 pm

