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Good Friday
Tenebrae Service

April 2, 2021

7:00 pm

*"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree."
1 Peter 2:24*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 53:4-5

LEADER: Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

PEOPLE: **Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrow; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

LEADER: But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

PEOPLE: **And with his wounds we are healed.**

INVOCATION

EXPLANATION OF THE TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE

Page 9

THE SHADOWS

(One candle is extinguished at the end of each reading.)

THE SHADOW OF THE AGONY OF THE SPIRIT

Bruce Hurlbut, Ruling Elder

Mark 14:26-42

²⁶ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹ Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not."

³⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹ But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

³² And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

HYMN

“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

Man of Sorrows! what a name for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood,
sealed my pardon with His blood: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we; Spotless Lamb of God was He;
full atonement! can it be? Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die, "It is finished!" was His cry:
now in heav'n exalted high: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King, all His ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we'll sing: Hallelujah! what a Savior!

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THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Mark 14:43-49

Jerry Potts, Ruling Elder

43 And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.”

45 And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. 46 And they laid hands on him and seized him. 47 But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

48 And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.”

HYMN

“There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood”

There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream Your flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing your pow'r to save,
when this poor lisp'ng, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, Your precious blood shall never lose its power,
till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

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50 And they all left him and fled. 51 And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, 52 but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

53 And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. 54 And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

55 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. 56 For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. 57 And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, 58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" 59 Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" 61 But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

63 And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? 64 You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. 65 And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

66 And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, 67 and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." 68 But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed.

69 And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." 70 But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." 71 But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." 72 And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

HYMN

"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, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
 for this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
 O make me Thine for ever; and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

- ¹ *And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate.*
- ² *And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so."*
- ³ *And the chief priests accused him of many things.*
- ⁴ *And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you."*
- ⁵ *But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.*
- ⁶ *Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked.*
- ⁷ *And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas.*
- ⁸ *And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them.*
- ⁹ *And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"*
- ¹⁰ *For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up.*
- ¹¹ *But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead.*
- ¹² *And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"*
- ¹³ *And they cried out again, "Crucify him."*
- ¹⁴ *And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him."*
- ¹⁵ *So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.*

HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross
 on which the Prince of glory died,
 my richest gain I count but loss,
 and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
 save in the death of Christ my God:
 all the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
 sorrow and love flow mingled down:
 did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
 or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 that were a present far too small;
 love so amazing, so divine,
 demands my soul, my life, my all.

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him.

¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him.

²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself.

³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

HYMN

"Were You There?"

(stanzas 1-4)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
 Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they pierce Him in the side?

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?

33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

35 And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah."

36 And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

HYMN

"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
for man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away,
'tis all that I can do.

- 40 There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.*
- 41 When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.*
- 42 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,*
- 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*
- 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead.*
- 45 And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.*
- 46 And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.*
- 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.*

HYMN

“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.*

THE CHRIST CANDLE TAKEN AWAY

SILENT MEDITATION AND PRAYER

THE CHRIST CANDLE RESTORED

BENEDICTION

Revelation 5:12

LEADER: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

The Christ candle exits down the aisle “into the world”.

The people exit in silence.

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.

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