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*Good Friday
Tenebrae Service*

*April 3, 2026
7:00 pm*

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*
John 3:16

Prelude

Call to Worship Isaiah 53:1, 4-5 Pastor Derek Coyle

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 Pastor Derek Coyle

“Wondrous Cross” Choir

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

The Shadow of Agony of the Spirit Carl Monroe, Ruling Elder
Matthew 26:36-46

*Hymn *“There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood”* No. 253

The Shadow of Betrayal Matthew 26:47-56 Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

*Hymn *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”* No. 247

The Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:57-27:2 Tom Paulus, Ruling Elder

Hymn *“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”* No. 246

The Shadow of Accusation Matthew 27:11-26 Richard Long, Ruling Elder

*Hymn *“What Wondrous Love Is This”* No. 261

The Shadow of Crucifixion Matthew 27:27-44 William Fennell, Ruling Elder

Hymn *“Were You There?”*
(stanzas 1-4) No. 260

The Shadow of Death Matthew 27:45-54 Bill Scholl, Ruling Elder

*Hymn *“Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed”* No. 254

The Shadow of Burial Matthew 27:57-66 Jeff Nissen, Ruling Elder

*Hymn *“The Power of the Cross”* (printed on back)

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.

“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.