

GOOD FRIDAY VIRTUAL TENEBRAE SERVICE APRIL 2, 2021



What follows is a form of the Tenebrae Service modified for home use. According to the Calvin Institute of Worship (at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan), “The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the Church since medieval times. Once a service for monastic communities, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week.” Now, particularly among Protestants, Tenebrae is usually a Good Friday observance, as (again according to the Calvin Institute) “Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death, and we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice even as we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.”

This particular version of the Tenebrae is based on the “seven last words” of Christ on the Cross. It can be done by a single person or the entire household. Please do not rush and feel free to pause the video! Give yourself time so that the scriptures and musical selections may penetrate your soul. You will need eight candles – if you don’t have eight tapers, tea lights or votives will do just fine – and an electronic or digital copy of this service. Set the eight candles in a central position for the participants – the dining room table, or a coffee table, etc. Light the candles and then begin by listening to, or singing along with the opening psalm.

OPENING PSALM

ADAPTED FROM PSALM 22

Sung to the tune “PICARDY”

(Live streamed from worship on Good Friday, 2019)

God, I cry to you in daytime; God, I call on you at night.
Why art thou so far off from me? Silence only from the height.
God, my God, have you forsaken me? Come and help me in my plight.

In thee, our ancestors trusted; to thee cried and were made right.
I alone am scorned, de-spis-ed; none stand with me in the fight.
God, my God, have you forsaken me? Come and help me in my plight.

I am poured out like water; in my bones there is no might.
Pierced, my hands and feet are bleeding; evil circles round in sight.
God, my God, have you forsaken me? Come and help me in my plight.

For my clothing they are gambling; I am filled with dread and fright.
Quickly come to me and help me; rescue me, make me upright.
God, my God, have you forsaken me? Come and help me in my plight.

WELCOME

BRYAN LOHR, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

PRAYER

Almighty God, look with mercy upon us, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, given over into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross. It is He who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit even now, and whose death and resurrection brings us life. Teach us anew in this time of the cost and the meaning of his sacrifice. This we pray in the name and through the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST WORD

FROM LUKE 23:32-34

READ BY CAROLYN MATHEWS

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus[a] there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

*Silent Prayer and Meditation
Extinguish the first candle*

SECOND WORD

FROM LUKE 23:39-43

READ BY BRYAN LOHR

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding[a] him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

*Silent Prayer and Meditation
Extinguish the second candle.*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

A NEW HEART

MELISSA DUNPHY

(Live streamed from worship on Sunday, March 24, 2019)

*I will give you a new heart.
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.
I will take away your heart of stone; I will give you a heart of flesh.*

THIRD WORD

FROM JOHN 19:25-27

READ BY CHARLENE LELINSKI

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*Silent Prayer and Meditation
Extinguish the third candle*

FOURTH WORD

FROM MARK 15:33-34

READ BY JOSHUA GILHART

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Silent Prayer and Meditation
Extinguish the fourth candle

MUSICAL REFLECTION

DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY
MIKAYLA AND ZACH DODGE

TRADITIONAL

FIFTH WORD

FROM JOHN 19:28-29

READ BY MIKAYLA DODGE

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there.

Silent Prayer and Meditation
Extinguish the fifth candle

SIXTH WORD

FROM JOHN 19: 29-30

READ BY ZACH DODGE

They put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Silent Prayer and Meditation
Extinguish the sixth candle

MUSICAL REFLECTION

WHEN JESUS WEPT
(Live streamed from worship on Good Friday, 2019)

WILLIAM BILLINGS

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound.
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

SEVENTH WORD

FROM LUKE 23:44-46

READ BY SHARON KAZARY

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Silent Prayer and Meditation
Extinguish the seventh candle

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1: 1-5

READ BY BRYAN LOHR

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, you gave us your Son that we might know your love and take on service in your name. As you brought Jesus through death on the cross, bring us through every trial, that we may live and serve in Christ's name, this day and every day. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

WERE YOU THERE
ERIC RINGLER, SOLOIST

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL