

Tenebrae Service of Shadows
A Service for Good Friday
April 7, 2023

Prelude

Words for Reflection

*To ask why
is to break open your heart,
to pour yourself out,
to stare into
the gnawing emptiness
of the tomb,
to peel away
any layer of security,
to walk on fire,
and stand in the rain.
It's talking about the bad dreams after you've had them.
It's courageous and vulnerable, painful and necessary.
To ask why
is to declare
that God is God.
To ask why is to say,
be my God
even when,
especially when,
the world falls apart.*

*Call to Worship

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
who redeems us from sin and death.
For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

*Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

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*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

Litany of Remembrance (*responsively*)

Let us remember Jesus,

who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us;
who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled;
who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.

Let us remember Jesus,

who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him
and for the perfecting of those who received him;
who loved all people and prayed for them,
even if they denied and rejected him;
who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness,
of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God.

May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us.

Let us remember Jesus,

who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross.
God has exalted him who has redeemed us
from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for us and
continues to do for us.**

Prayer

Holy One, our strength in suffering and our hope for salvation, lift up your Word of life and pour out your Spirit of grace so that we may follow faithfully all the way to the cross; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Service of Shadows

The Shadow of Betrayal—Luke 22:14-23

The first candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Conflict—Luke 22:24-30

The second candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Prediction—Luke 22:31-38

The third candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Agony of Spirit—Luke 22:39-46

The fourth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Arrest—Luke 22:47-53

The fifth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Denial—Luke 22:54-62

The sixth candle is extinguished.

*Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown

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*My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.*

*O who am I
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?*

*He came from heaven's throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.*

*But O my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!*

*Sometimes we strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!"
is all our breath,
and for his death
we thirst and cry.*

*Unheeding, we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.*

*Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine:
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.*

The Shadow of Humiliation—Luke 22:63-71

The seventh candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Accusation—Luke 23:1-5

The eighth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Separation—Luke 23:6-12

The ninth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Forsakenness—Luke 23:13-25

The tenth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Crucifixion—Luke 23:32-38

The eleventh candle is extinguished
The Shadow of Suffering—Luke 23:26-31
The twelfth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Death—Luke 23:39-46
The Light Departs
Silence for Reflection

The Shadow of Burial—Luke 23:47-56a

Were you There

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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?

The Light Returns

*Dismissal (*responsively*)

Go in peace. May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on the cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever more.

Amen.