

Good Friday

April 3, 2021

7:00 PM

Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") was the name given to the medieval predawn Morning Prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. In recent centuries, this monastic liturgy—despite its early morning light imagery—was transferred to Wednesday evening in Holy Week. In the monastic practice, it was a service of prayers and readings from scripture. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.

In the service presented here, the extinguishing of candles has been placed within the reading of the Passion according to John, the ancient gospel narrative for the day. With this form, seven candles are used. Following each section, one candle is extinguished.

A Service of Tenebrae

Please prepare for worship with silent meditation

Organ Prelude

All gather in silence. The assembly stands when the ministers stand.

Prayer of the Day

Reading *The Fourth Servant Song* Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Organ Offertory

The Passion According to St. John

Each part is followed by a period of reflection and the extinguishing of a candle.

Part One John 18:1-11

Part Two John 18:12-27

Part Three John 18:28-40

Part Four John 19:1-7

Part Five John 19:8-16a

Part Six John 19:16b-22

Part Seven John 19:23-42

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Bidding Prayers

Adoration of the Cross

Behold, the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

The assembly may be seated. During this time worshipers may come to the large cross to make a sign of reverence. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The congregation departs in silence