

TENEBRAE VIGIL



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE



Welcome to this Tenebrae Service.

Tenebrae, (Latin for 'darkness'), is a traditional service dating back to the fourth century. It provides a way to keep watch with Jesus during the hours leading up to the crucifixion. The gradual extinguishing of the lights during the service is symbolic of the approaching darkness that came over Jesus, with the flight of the disciples, the bitter hate of the enemies and the looming shadow of the Cross. The one remaining candle at the end of the service reminds us that the Light of Christ shines on in the darkness and the darkness will never put it out. (1 John 1:5)

Please remain seated or kneeling throughout the service, even during the singing. After each reading, there will be a time of quiet for you to reflect on the reading privately and prayerfully. When the soft background music stops then the next reader comes forward to read.

At the conclusion of the service leave quietly when you feel ready to go.

SERVICE BEGINS - LIGHTING OF TEN CANDLES ON ALTAR

LEADER: The hour is at hand. Jesus Christ is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

ALL: THE HOUR IS AT HAND - JESUS CHRIST IS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

LEADER: Jesus said to the disciples, "Remain here and stay awake with me."

ALL: WE KEEP WATCH WITH JESUS THIS NIGHT.

LEADER: Gracious and forgiving God,
As we walk with Jesus on his way to the cross,
We pray that we will not turn away from him.
Forgive us for the times we have turned to our own way.
Give us strength to stay by Jesus side. AMEN

HYMN: There is a Green Hill Far Away HFTC 148

READING 1: The disciples sleep while Jesus prays - Matthew 26:30-46
First candle extinguished (By Reader)

LEADER: Lord we come to Gethsemane

ALL: AND WE CONFESS OUR REJECTION OF YOUR WILL.

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

READING 2: The betrayal and arrest of Jesus Matthew 26:47-56
Second candle extinguished

LEADER: Lord, as we contemplate Jesus betrayal

ALL: WE CONFESS THE TIMES WE HAVE BETRAYED SOMEONE WE LOVE OR SOME
CAUSE WE BELIEVE IN.

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

READING 3: Jesus before the High Priest Matthew 26: 57-68
Third candle extinguished

LEADER: Lord, as we come to Caiaphas's house

ALL: WE CONFESS OUR DISTORTION OF THE TRUTH

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

READING 4: Peter's Denial Matthew 26: 69-75
Fourth candle extinguished

LEADER: Lord, as we reflect on Peter's denial of you

ALL: WE CONFESS THE TIMES WE DENIED WE EVER KNEW YOU

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

READING 5: Pilate hands Jesus over Matthew 27:1-2, 24-31
Fifth candle extinguished

SONG:

**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?**

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

READING 7: Jesus dies Matthew 27:45-50
Seventh candle extinguished

LEADER: O come and mourn with me awhile,
O come ye to the Saviour's side

ALL: O COME TOGETHER LET US MOURN JESUS OUR LORD IS CRUCIFIED

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

READING 8: The temple curtain is torn Matthew 27: 51-54
Eighth candle extinguished

READING 9: Jesus is buried Matthew 27: 55-61
Ninth candle is extinguished

SONG:

**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 altar is stripped during this song)

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

LEADER: This is not the end of the story. "The light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." 1 John 1:5.

Go out into the night in assurance, that the One who brings eternal life is gone before you. Return the third day hence to worship the risen Lord.

SONG: When I survey the wondrous cross HFTC 147

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

(LEAVE QUIETLY WHEN READY)