



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "shadows." It is the name given to a service that dates back to 8th Century Rome in which the death of Jesus Christ is commemorated.

Tonight, we will read the account of Christ's passion. After each reading, a candle is extinguished. As the light diminishes and the shadows lengthen, the symbolism points clearly to the physical and spiritual darkness and despair that accompanied the passion of our Lord. After the Last Lesson, the Christ Candle is extinguished and we depart in silence.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHER IN SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blessed be the name of the Lord, our God,

ALL: who redeems us from sin and death.

One: For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

ALL: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

One: Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

HYMN 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Hamburg vs 1, 3, 4

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. Let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and

strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

ALL: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

LESSON Matthew 26:20-25

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus, Herzliebster Jesu vs 1,2

1. Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!
2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

SHADOW OF THE ARREST

LESSON Matthew 26: 36, 47-50

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

HYMN 220

Go to Dark Gethsemane, Redhead 76 vs 1,2

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgement hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

SHADOW OF DENIAL

LESSON Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

SOLO

Dark Meditation, by Aaron Hunt

SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

LESSON Matthew 27: 11-14, 20-23

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus, Herzliebster Jesu vs 3

3. Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded. God interceded.

SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION AND HUMILIATION

LESSON Matthew 27: 31-37

After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

SOLO

The Crucifixion, by Samuel Barber

SHADOW OF DEATH

LESSON Matthew 27: 45-51

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait,

let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

HYMN 228

Were You There, verses 1,2,5

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

LESSON John 1:1-5; 3:19

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. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

END IN SILENCE

Leaders Today

Rev. Scott Anderson, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Melissa Hinz, Music Coordinator/Adult Choir Director, Covenant Presbyterian Church

Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Cole Bartels, trombone

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