



T E N E B R A E
SERVICE

Martin Luther Church
March 30, 2018

THE TENEBRAE SERVICE

The word *Tenebrae* means “darkness.” The service of *Tenebrae* impresses upon our hearts and minds the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of our Savior’s suffering and death. The gradual extinguishing of the candles and lights signify the growing bitterness of the world against Jesus our Christ; the defection of His disciples; the increasing darkness in the world around Jesus; and the agony within. The central candle signifies Jesus Himself, the Light of the World. Its removal from the altar with the clap of the book at the close of the last reading signifies “It is finished,” namely, the work of redemption is completed in the death of the Son of God. The return of the candle reminds us that, “He rose again for our justification.”

Please read the instructions for leaving church at the end of this bulletin. Parents, please prepare your children for full darkness and silence.

THE HYMN: 98vv.1 and 4 “Jesus I Will Ponder Now”

The Reading: Psalm 2

The Meditation: “Father, Forgive Them”

Prayer by Congregation:

Jesus, in Your dying woes, Even while Your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus.
Savior, for our pardon sue When our sins Your pangs renew;
For we know not what we do: Hear us, holy Jesus.
Oh, may we who mercy need, Be like You in heart and deed
When with wrong our spirits bleed! Hear us, holy Jesus. AMEN.

THE HYMN: 105vv.1,2 and 4 “Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

The Reading: Psalm 54

The Meditation: “Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise”

Prayer by Congregation:

Jesus, pitying the sighs, Of the thief who near Thee dies,
Promising him Paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus.
May we in our guilt and shame, Still Your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on Your name: Hear us, holy Jesus.
May our hearts to You incline, Looking from our cross to Thine;
Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, holy Jesus. AMEN.

THE HYMN: 129 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

The Reading: Psalm 51:1-12

The Meditation: “Woman, Behold Your Son”

Prayer by Congregation:

Jesus, loving to the end, She whose heart Your sorrows rend,
And Your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus.
May we in Your sorrows share, For Your sake all peril dare;
And enjoy Your tender care: Hear us, holy Jesus.
May we all Your loved ones be, All one holy family,
Living for Your love so free: Hear us holy Jesus. AMEN.

THE HYMN: 140 “God Was There on Calvary”

The Reading: Psalm 22:1-19

The Meditation: “My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

Prayer by Congregation:

Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown, With our evil left alone,
While no light from heaven is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus.
When we vainly seem to pray, And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our Stay: Hear us, holy Jesus.
Though no Father seem to hear, Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near: Hear us, holy Jesus. AMEN.

THE HYMN: 125 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

The Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Meditation: “I Thirst”

Prayer by Congregation:

Jesus, in Your thirst and pain, While Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, holy Jesus.
Thirst for us in mercy still, All Your holy work fulfill,
Satisfy Your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.
May we thirst Your love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus. AMEN.

THE HYMN: 138 vv.1-2,5 “Oh Perfect Life of Love”

The Reading: Matthew 27:45-54

The Meditation: “It Is Finished!”

Prayer by Congregation:

Jesus, all our ransom paid, All Your Father’s will obeyed,
By Your sufferings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.
Save us in our soul’s distress, Be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.
Brighten all our heavenward way, With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus. AMEN

SOLO: “Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor” Hymn 718

The Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

The Meditation: “Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit”

Prayer by Congregation:

Jesus, all Your labor vast, All Your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.
When the death shades round us lower, Guard us from the Tempter’s
Keep us in that trial hour: Hear us, holy Jesus. power.
May Your life and death supply, Grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the our home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus. AMEN.

SOLO: “Lamb of God”

The Reading: “Worthy Is The Lamb”

The Closing of the Book:

The Return of the Light:

At the close of this service, the congregation will LEAVE THE CHURCH IN SILENCE AND IN DARKNESS, contemplating Jesus’ triumph for all humanity over the power of sin and darkness. In leaving the church, the BACK ROW will leave first, and so on until the entire church is empty. You may place your offering in the plate on the stand in the narthex before service or as you leave. We will gather together in worship in the full light and joy of Easter!!

Soloist: Mrs. Paula Thill

Organist: Mrs. Lois Werner