



Friday, March 29, 2024

Good Friday Tenebrae

Tenebrae, a word meaning “shadows,” is the name given to the ancient evening service of Good Friday, the night of our Lord’s passion and death. We open with mutual confession, a pastor confessing his or her sins and the congregation forgiving, then the congregation confessing with the same words and the pastor forgiving. By candlelight, we pray and sing, and then hear of Jesus betrayal, crucifixion, and death. After each reading, we observe silence, and a candle is extinguished. Finally, only one candle remains, the Christ candle. We hear the last reading, and the Christ candle is carried away, leaving the altar in darkness. Together, we kneel and whisper the Lord’s prayer. A loud noise follows, known as the *strepitus* (“harsh sound”), representing the stone closing the tomb. The service ends in silence. May this holy service of Good Friday draw us into the depth of Christ’s love and the length to which he is willing to go to reach us with his love.

In preparation for this service, it is suggested that we read Psalms 27 and 143 – pp. 437 and 505 in the pew Bibles – silently.

PRELUDE

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”
Laura Trout, cello

RECITATION

Isaiah 53:2-5

Please remain seated.

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

All kneel, as we are able. In an act of mutual forgiveness, the pastor confesses, and the congregation absolves. Then, with the same words, the congregation confesses, and the pastor absolves.

P: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C: **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**

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P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Please continue kneeling.

P: O God our Father, by the cross of your son you reconciled the world to yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise you for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us to forgive each other and to establish justice throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 4

All sit, and we pray the psalm together responsively by half verse.

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;

how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin;

speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!”

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

You have put gladness in my heart,

more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;

for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

HYMN

“The Lord is My Life”

The Lord is my life, my light and sal - va - tion: in
God — I trust, in God I trust. *fine* The

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "The Lord is my life, my light and sal - va - tion: in". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "God — I trust, in God I trust. The". The word "fine" is written above the final note of the second staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

HYMN

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." and "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

P: Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: **O Come, let us worship him.**

Reading

John 18:1-11...Jesus's betrayal and arrest

Reading

John 18:12-27...Peter's denial

Musical Offering

“Who Will Betray the Son of God?” (Smith)

Reading

John 18:28-40...Jesus before Pilate

Reading

John 19:1-7...Pilate condemns him

Musical Offering

“A Scarlet Robe” (Larson)

Recitation

Isaiah 53:6-9

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Reading

John 19:8-16...Jesus is sentenced to death

Reading

John 19:16-22...Jesus is crucified

Musical Offering

“Ave Verum” (Mozart)

Reading

John 19:23-25...The soldiers divide his clothes

Reading

John 19:25-30...Jesus gives up his spirit and dies

Musical Offering

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

The Congregation kneels and whispers the Lord's Prayer.

Strepitus (Symbolizes the closing of the grave.)

The Congregation is asked to leave the church in silence.