

Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
830 N 1st Avenue, Tucson, AZ

March 25, 2016

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

The Service of Darkness

TENEBRAE

Tenebrae is the Latin word for “darkness.” The *Officium Tenebrae*, the Service of Darkness, is a devotional and meditative service held on Good Friday to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The Service of Darkness is not a funeral service for Jesus but a time for adoration of the Lamb of God in which we celebrate his sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. The darkness in the church symbolizes the miraculous *Tenebrae*, the darkness which surrounded the cross and darkened the earth from noon until three o’clock on the day Jesus died.

SEVEN CANDLES

There are seven candles in the front of the church. Throughout the service the candles are extinguished and the lights are dimmed representing the extinguishing of the life of Jesus. The seventh candle is not extinguished but it is removed from the chancel. Just as Christ’s body was hidden in the grave until the third day so also is the seventh candle removed from sight for a short time. It is returned to its place at the end of the service foreshadowing Christ’s return from death to life.

SILENCE

In keeping with the solemnity of the day, there is no pre-service or post-service music. The service begins in silence and ends in silence. Worshipers are invited to remain after the service for as long as they wish for prayer and meditation. All are asked to leave the sanctuary, the courtyard and the parking lot in silence. The stillness and darkness of tonight are intended to contrast with the bright and glorious celebration of Easter morning.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

PRESERVICE: Silence for Meditation

HYMN

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes
Christian Worship #139

Please stand

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

M: Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how much our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there actually is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C: Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.

M: Today we are reminded not only of your justice but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings.

C: **When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross, where our guilt was washed away in Jesus' blood.**

M: Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt that we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven.

C: **For being our perfect substitute, we thank you, Lord Jesus.**

M: Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin and commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love.

C: **Give us the courage to face death, knowing that it is the gate to our home in heaven.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we offer our personal thanks for the forgiveness that you have given us and for the home that you have won for us.

Silent prayer.

M: The cross was once an instrument of death. It is now a sign of life.

C: **Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and of your love. Amen.**

Please be seated

THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

(Silence for meditation follows each reading, then a candle is extinguished.)

The First Word - Luke 23:26-34

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then 'they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'" For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "***Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.***" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for meditation - First candle is extinguished.

VOCAL TRIO - *Three Men on the Mountain*

The Second Word - Luke 23:38-43

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*"

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - Second candle is extinguished.

VOICES OF GRACE - *Deep Were His Wounds*

*Deep were his wounds, and red, on cruel Calvary,
As on the cross he bled in bitter agony.
But they whom sin has wounded sore find healing in the wounds he bore.*

*He suffered shame and scorn and wretched, dire disgrace;
Forsaken and forlorn, He hung there in our place.
But all who would from sin be free look to his cross for victory.*

*Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died.
My guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone, and now it pleads before the throne.*

*His life, his all, he gave when he was crucified;
Our burdened souls to save, what fearful death he died!
But each of us, though dead in sin, through him eternal life may win.*

The Third Word - John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "*Dear woman, here is your son,*" and to the disciple, "*Here is your mother.*" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - Third candle is extinguished.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This
Christian Worship #120

The Fourth Word - Matthew 27:45-49

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - Fourth candle is extinguished.

HYMN

Not All the Blood of Beasts
Christian Worship #128

The Fifth Word - John 19:28-29

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “*I am thirsty.*” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Silence for meditation - Fifth candle is extinguished.

HYMN

Oh, Come, My Soul
Christian Worship #99

The Sixth Word - John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “*It is finished.*”

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
C: Thanks be to God.

VOICES OF GRACE - *The Lamb Is Crucified*

Kyrie eleison...

*Come to the hill of death and shame, the Lamb is lifted high.
The soldiers curse and mock His name, and hope begins to die.
Nails pierce through His hands and feet; His foes on ev'ry side.
Redemption's work is now complete. The Lamb is crucified.*

Kyrie eleison...

*As he takes each labored breath, the earth begins to groan.
The shadows fall as deep as death when God forsakes His own.
Crying out in agony, He shouts "My God! My God!
Why have You forsaken me?" Then whispers, "It is done!"
Kyrie eleison...*

(The Greek phrase "Kyrie eleison" has been used in worship since the early Christian church and means "Lord, have mercy.")

Silence for meditation - Sixth candle is extinguished.

The Seventh Word - Luke 23:44-56

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**" When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

M: God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for meditation - The Seventh candle is not extinguished, but it is removed from view, just as Christ was, for a time, hidden from sight in the tomb.

CLARINET SOLO - *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

*Follow to the judgement hall; View the Lord of life arraigned.
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, pain, or loss; Learn of him to bear the cross.*

*Calvary's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.*

SERMON

"He said, "I Will Rise Again"

Matthew 27:62-66

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

SOLO - "*Were You There?*"

*The Seventh Candle is returned to the chancel, foreshadowing the Resurrection.
Even on Good Friday we worship the living Christ, the guarantor that we, too, will never die.*

You are invited to remain after the service for prayer and meditation.

OFFERINGS to our Savior may be left in the plates at the doors before you leave.

PLEASE LEAVE THE SANCTUARY, COURTYARD, AND PARKING LOT IN SILENCE.

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TENEBRAE PARTICIPANTS

| | |
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| Worship Leader..... | Pastor Colin Rieke |
| Reader..... | Ron Silver |
| Accompanist..... | Tina Christianson |
| Voices of Grace Director..... | Beth Kassulke |
| Clarinet..... | Missy Wiechmann |
| Violin..... | Maya Parra |
| Vocal Trio..... | Dylan Guenther, Jeff Weinstein, Jay Wiechmann |
| Soloist..... | Nicole Peterson |
| Trumpet..... | Pastor Nathan Kassulke |
| Candles..... | Manish Chandekar |
| Lighting..... | Lucas Guenther |
| Sound Tech..... | Jeff Weinstein |

Easter Celebrations

Grace-Benson

451 W. Duane Street

- 7:30 AM Easter Festival Worship
- 8:30 AM Easter Breakfast

Grace-Tucson

830 N. 1st Avenue

- 7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service
- 8:00 AM Easter Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Easter Concert
- 10:00 AM Easter Festival Worship



Grace-Sahuarita

17675 S. La Canada Drive

- 9:45 AM Easter Festival Worship
- 10:45 AM Easter Brunch

Grace-Vail

*Worshiping at Esmond Station K-8
9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way*

- 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Easter Festival Worship



Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: www.wels.net