

Welcome + Invitation to Participate

Households are invited to find 7 candles in their homes and to participate in the Tenebrae by extinguishing candles with Pastor Ally throughout this worship service.

Explanation of Tenebrae

Somehow, according to the mystery of God, we were there when Jesus died. All history was present because Christ died for the sins of all people. This tenebrae service is designed to help us capture a feeling for what happened that day. This particular worship experience dates back to the early 4th century, with its unique feature being the symbolic extinguishing of lighted candles, signifying the approach of our Lord's death.

Tonight we are going to focus on the shadows falling on Christ in the last hours of his life. Each shadow consuming and extinguishing one of our six lights -- the shadow of betrayal, of loneliness, of desertion, of accusation, of mockery, and of death. There is an 7th candle, and that is the candle of Christ, the paschal candle.

After the last candle, the paschal candle, is snuffed out you are invited into a time of silence. You can choose to end this worship video when you are ready. No postlude will be played. Come to this time of solemn tenebrae.

Greeting

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, **who redeems us from sin and death.**

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Opening Hymn | *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* v.1-3 ELW 337

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together our prayer of the day: Merciful God, **your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Shadow of Betrayal | Matthew 26:17-25

The shadow of betrayal, as found in the Gospel of Matthew, the 26th chapter:

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?”

He replied, “Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, ‘The teacher says, “My time is near. I’m going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.”’”The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.

That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating he said, “I assure you that one of you will betray me.”

Deeply saddened, each one said to him, “I’m not the one, am I, Lord?”

He replied, “The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born.”

Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, “It’s not me, is it, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You said it.”

Snuffing the Candle | The Shadow of Betrayal

Song | *Were You There* v.1

ELW 353

The Shadow of Loneliness | Matthew 26:40-46

The shadow of loneliness, as found in the Gospel of Matthew, the 26th chapter:

He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” A second time he went away and prayed, “My Father, if it’s not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.”

Again he came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were heavy with sleep. But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time. Then he came to his disciples and said to them, “Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let’s go. Look, here comes my betrayer.”

Snuffing the Candle | The Shadow of Loneliness

Song | *Were You There* v.2

ELW 353

The Shadow of Desertion | Matthew 26:47-56

The shadow of desertion, as found in the Gospel of Matthew, the 26th chapter:

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. His betrayer had given them a sign: “Arrest the man I kiss.” Just then he came to Jesus and said, “Hello, Rabbi.” Then he kissed him.

But Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest’s slave, he cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I’m not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?” Then Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn’t arrest me. But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

Snuffing the Candle | The Shadow of Desertion

Song | *Were You There* v.3

ELW 353

The Shadow of Accusation | Matthew 26:57-68

The shadow of accusation, as found in the Gospel of Matthew, the 26th chapter:

Those who arrested Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest. The legal experts and the elders had gathered there. Peter followed him from a distance until he came to the high priest’s courtyard. He entered that area and sat outside with the officers to see how it would turn out.

The chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They didn’t find anything they could use from the many false witnesses who were willing to come forward. But finally they found two who said, “This man said, ‘I can destroy God’s temple and rebuild it in three days.’”

Then the high priest stood and said to Jesus, “Aren’t you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?”

But Jesus was silent.

The high priest said, “By the living God, I demand that you tell us whether you are the Christ, God’s Son.”

“You said it,” Jesus replied. “But I say to you that from now on you’ll see the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He’s insulting God! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, you’ve heard his insult against God. What do you think?”

And they answered, “He deserves to die!” Then they spit in his face and beat him. They hit him and said, “Prophecy for us, Christ! Who hit you?”

Snuffing the Candle | The Shadow of Accusation

Song | *Were You There* v.4

ELW 353

The Shadow of Mockery | Mark 15:12-20

The shadow of mockery, as found in the Gospel of Mark, the 15th chapter:

Pilate replied, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?”

They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done?”

They shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor’s headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers. They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. They saluted him, “Hey! King of the Jews!” Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Snuffing the Candle | The Shadow of Mockery

Song | *Were You There* v.5

ELW 353

The Shadow of Death | Luke 23:33-46

The shadow of death, as found in the Gospel of Luke, the 23rd chapter:

When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.”

The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, “If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read “This is the king of the Jews.”

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, “Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”

It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o’clock, while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, “Father, into your hands I entrust my life.” After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

Snuffing the Candle | The Shadow of Death

Song | *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

v.1-3

ELW 351

Bidding Prayer

Lord Jesus, your words echo in our ears and in our hearts. We come to you this evening with mixed motives, with self-centered expectations, with closed minds, with pride in our own accomplishments, with shame from our deepest failures. Yet to all your worst abusers, you prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” And so we too pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don’t know what we’re doing.**

We have demanded that you fit our own expectations, that you work according to our plans and on our schedule. We have been resentful when things didn’t turn out the way we expected. We pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don’t know what we’re doing.**

When you have offered us new life, we have taken that gift and rejected it, just as the crowds rejected the new Kingdom that you proclaimed. We pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don’t know what we’re doing.**

We are fickle, praising you one moment and denying you the next in what we think, say, and do. We pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don’t know what we’re doing.**

We have been overcome by fear, caving into pressure and doing what we knew was unjust. We pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don't know what we're doing.**

We have been unmerciful, hardening our hearts to the outcasts of our society and passing judgment on those who don't meet our self-made and hypocritical standards. We pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don't know what we're doing.**

We have manipulated others to do our own bidding. We have clung to power and influence at the expense of compassion and justice, failing to trust that you are in control. We pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don't know what we're doing.**

We have valued the appearance of righteousness more than a living relationship with you. We pray: **Father, forgive us, for we don't know what we're doing.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the great forgiver. Because of your reconciling love, we know we can confess our sins and that you are faithful in forgiving them and restoring us. We ask you to enable us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to become forgivers in the pattern you set for us. So we pray...

Special Music | *Father, Forgive Us*

Extinguishing the Paschal Candle

It is finished.