

We warmly welcome visitors to worship with us!

Good Friday

March 25, 2016

Good Friday Tenebrae

8:00 p.m.

Tenebrae services in one form or another date back to the seventh or eighth century as a Holy Week devotion. The word Tenebrae means “darkness” or “shadows,” as the service is characterized by the successive extinguishing of light as the service progresses. No service of the year is more biblical—every word of Tenebrae is taken verbatim from the Scriptures—and few are as moving.

Typically, the Office of Tenebrae consists of three sections, call “Nocturns,” each of which includes several readings, responses, and the Lord’s Prayer. This version, developed by the lay readers of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Richmond, Virginia, is simpler and more meditative. It consists of seven sets of readings: the last seven sayings of Jesus from the cross, and their parallels in the Old Testament. Often, the words recorded are quoted directly from the Old Testament; Jesus was, after all, the fulfillment of Scripture.

Following each lesson, there will be a silence, a time to reflect. You may wish to listen for a phrase or image on which to meditate.

At the end of the lessons, the Christ candle is carried out and extinguished, for the light of Christ has gone out of the world, to be rekindled at Easter. At the end of the service, the lights will be raised enough for you to leave silently.

Good Friday Tenebrae

Enter in Silence

Lesson 1

Luke 23:32-34

Canticle 14, A Song of Penitence

Lesson 2

Luke 23:35-43

Canticle 10, Second Song of Isaiah

Lesson 3

John 19:23-27

Psalm 130, *De Profundis*

Lesson 4

Mark 15:29-34

Psalm 22:1-21, *Deus, Deus Meus*

Lesson 5

John 19:28

Canticle 9, First Song of Isaiah

Lesson 6

John 19:30

Canticle 11, Third Song of Isaiah

Lesson 7

Luke 23:44-49

Psalm 31:1-5, *In te, Domine, Speravi*

Tolling of the bell

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Good Friday

8:00 p.m. Tenebrae

Saturday

Parish Preparation Day

Easter or the Day of Resurrection

6:00 a.m. San Marcos' Easter Vigil (in Spanish)

8:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

6744 South King's Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306



Tenebrae
March 25, 2016