

Good Friday

April 14, 2017

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

We warmly welcome visitors to worship with us!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 15

Parish preparation for Easter
11 a.m. First Communion Instruction

April 16

Easter Sunday or the Day of Resurrection

6 a.m. San Marcos' Easter Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast
8 a.m. Festal Eucharist, with Music
10 a.m. Festal Eucharist, with Music
No Sunday School

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
6744 South King's Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306

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