

Tenebrae – Maundy Thursday evening 2020

Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness") is a service held on Maundy Thursday evening; it includes bible readings from the Gospel of Matthew, increasing darkness, and silent reflection. As we gather this evening, allow yourself to enter into the dramatic narrative of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion, and to reflect on God's wondrous love.

We start with 7 candles being lit. Throughout the reflections, they are extinguished one by one, until we end in darkness. You are invited after the service to remain in quiet and dimmed lights, reflecting on Jesus words in the Garden of Gethsemane – Jesus said to his disciples 'stay with me and keep watch' (Matthew 26:38).

The service will proceed unannounced.

Opening prayer

Almighty Father, as we hear your word tonight, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Passion of our Lord

Reading 1 —Matthew 26:36-46 Jesus' disciples fall asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane.

First Candle Extinguished

Reading 2 —Matthew 26:47-56 Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss.

Second Candle Extinguished

Reading 3—Matthew 26:57-68 Jesus before the Sanhedrin

Third Candle Extinguished

Reading 4 —Matthew 26:69-75 Peter's denial

Fourth Candle Extinguished

Reading 5 —Matthew 27:15-26 Jesus before Pilate

Fifth Candle Extinguished

Reading 6 —Matthew 27:27-44 The soldiers mock Jesus.

Sixth Candle Extinguished

Reading 7 —Matthew 27:45-50 The death of Jesus

Christ Candle Extinguished

Reading 8—Matthew 27:51-54 Surely, he was the Son of God.

Silence