

## A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

V. The light has come into the world, and the world loved darkness rather than light.

**R. God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray

*A brief silence.*

Most gracious God, look with mercy upon your children gathered here for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, given into sinful hands, and suffered death upon the cross. Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of his passion; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

All Sing

### A MEDITATION

Tonight and for the next three nights we will follow Jesus into his passion – his suffering and death and ultimately into the glory and hope of his resurrection.

And while tonight offers a brief glimmer of this hope, we will spend most of our time among the shadows: The shadow of betrayal by a friend. Of agony in the Garden. Of Jesus' arrest, Peter's denial, and false accusation after false accusation. We walk among the shadows of a crown made with thorns and the insults of the crowd. And we will find ourselves under the shadow of the cross on which the brutal crucifixion of Jesus occurred.

It is all very intimate and very personal because every moment, every painful step of his bitter passion he suffered for you. What's more, Jesus is willing to do it over and over again. No greater love ever existed than the love that Jesus manifested through his passion, crucifixion and death on the cross.

In moments of desolation we can be confident about how much Jesus really does love us by remembering and reflecting on his Passion. Contemplating Jesus shedding his precious blood for the salvation of our souls.

How precious and valuable is your soul! Saint Peter reminds us of this with these penetrating words:

*That you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless, unblemished lamb. (I Peter 1:18-19)*

Overwhelmed by the awesome and fathomless reality of the suffering, shedding of blood and death of Jesus, we might ask ourselves how can we plumb the depths of the greatest love story ever penned, not with ink, but with the precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

And so we begin our journey through the shadows...

## THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

### **The Shadow of Betrayal**

Reading: Luke 22:1-6

*A Candle is extinguished.*

Response: "Hear Us, O Holy Jesus"

Dale Wood

Choirs

### **The Shadow of Agony**

Reading: Matthew 26:36-44

*A Candle is extinguished.*

Response: "Stay With Me"

Taize

All Sing (Flute, Jennie Winkle)

### **The Shadow of Arrest**

Reading: Mark 14:43-49

*A Candle is extinguished.*

Response: "Ah, Holy Jesus"

Hymn 158

All Sing

### **The Shadow of Denial**

Reading: Mark 14:50, 66-72

*A Candle is extinguished.*

Response: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Arr. Pont-Bach

Bassoon Solo by James King

### **The Shadow of Accusation**

Reading: Matthew 27:11-18, 21-26

*A Candle is extinguished.*

Response: "When Jesus Wept"

Hymn 715

All Sing (Cello, Rebekah Andrews)

### **The Shadow of Crucifixion & Humiliation**

Reading: Matthew 27:27-37

*A Candle is extinguished.*

Response: "Bound Upon the Accursed Tree"

Dale Wood

Choirs (Solo, Rebekah Andrews)

### **The Shadow of Death**

Reading: Matthew 27:45-54

Response: The Crucifixion

Samuel Barber

Soloist, Anna Surovic

*The Christ Candle Is Removed.*

### **The Shadow of Burial**

Reading: John 19:38-42

Response: "Were You There?"

Hymn 172

All Sing

*Silent Reflection*

*A loud noise is made and the Christ Candle Is Restored*

*The People Leave in Silence*