

## TENEBRAE READINGS FROM THE NRSV BIBLE:

### Maundy Thursday Service

#### Luke 23:54-56

It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup> The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup> Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.



#### 1 Cor 15:3-4

<sup>3</sup> For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.



#### Psalm 22: 27 – 31

All the ends of the Earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for domination belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him – those who cannot keep themselves alive.

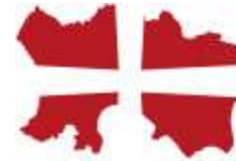
Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn – for he has done it.

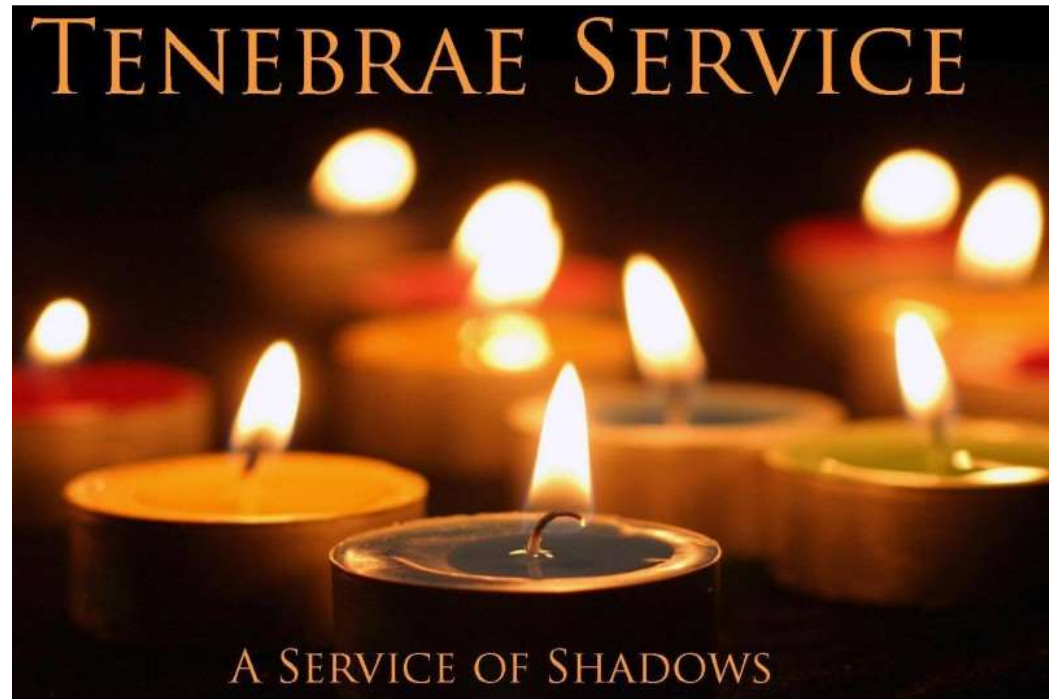
**BENEDICTION:** ( 2 Corinthians 13: 14)

*L “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”*

**C: Amen**



**Jersey**  
Methodist Circuit



# INTRODUCTION to *Tenebrae*

Tonight, we would like to turn back time and accompany Jesus' way to Calvary where he was hung on the cross.

During this journey from Thursday evening to Holy Saturday we will focus on the significant moments. This service is an adaption of the medieval Tenebrae, a Latin word which means darkness.

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Saviour's sacrifice, the candles on the Lord's table will gradually be extinguished one by one to remind us of the events that led to the darkness that covered the

earth when Jesus hung on the cross.

One candle remains burning until the end to symbolize that even in the midst of death and darkness, the forces of evil, Satan and hell shall not prevail against the light of Christ.

Jesus' resurrection is sure. He lives Eternally. And we shall live too!

*Take time to respond at the congregational 'C's and in moments of stillness and quiet reflection.*

## Mark 15:38-41

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he<sup>a</sup> breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

<sup>40</sup> There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.



The seventh candle is extinguished

## Isaiah 53: 4 – 9

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and he as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away.

And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth

## Matt 27:57-60

### *The Burial of Jesus*

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.



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#### HYMN:

- 1 Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;  
Christ on the road to Calvary; - tried  
by sinful men, torn and beaten then,  
nailed to a cross of wood.  
*This the pow'r of the cross;  
Christ became sin for us;  
took the blame, bore the wrath.  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*
- 2 Oh, to see the pain written on your face,  
bearing the awesome weight of sin;  
ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,  
crowning your blood-stained brow.
- 3 Now the daylight flees, now the ground  
beneath quakes as its maker bows his head,  
curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;  
'Finished!' the vict'ry cry.
- 4 Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
for through your suff'ring I am free;  
death is crushed to death, life is mine to live;  
won through your selfless love.  
*This the pow'r of the cross;  
Son of God, slain for us;  
what a love! What a cost!  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Keith Getty (born 1974) and Stuart Townend  
(born 1963)  
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#### Mark 15:33

**33** When it was noon, darkness  
came over the whole land until three in  
the afternoon.



The sixth candle is extinguished

#### Mark 15:34-36

**34** At three o'clock Jesus cried out with  
a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema  
sabachthani?" which means, "My God,  
my God, why have you forsaken me?"  
**35** When some of the bystanders heard  
it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for  
Elijah." **36** And someone ran, filled a  
sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick,  
and gave it to him to drink, saying,  
"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will  
come to take him down."

#### John 19:30

**30** When Jesus had received the wine,  
he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed  
his head and gave up his spirit.

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#### OPENING

John 3 : 16 – 17

#### Leader (L)

"God so loved the world that he gave his  
one and only Son, that whoever believes in  
him shall not perish but have eternal life".

#### Congregation (C)

**"For God did not send his Son into the  
world to condemn the world, but to save  
the world through him."**

#### HYMN:

- 1 **O love that wilt not let me go,**  
I rest my weary soul in thee:  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.
- 2 O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee:  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.
- 3 O joy, that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee:  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.
- 4 O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee:  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms  
red - life that shall endless be.

George Matheson (1842-1906)

#### Matt 26:20-30

**20** When it was evening, he took his  
place with the twelve; **21** and while they  
were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you,  
one of you will betray me." **22** And they  
became greatly distressed and began to  
say to him one after another, "Surely  
not I, Lord?" **23** He answered, "The one  
who has dipped his hand into the bowl  
with me will betray me. **24** The Son of  
Man goes as it is written of him, but woe  
to that one by whom the Son of Man is  
betrayed! It would have been better for  
that one not to have been born."  
**25** Judas, who betrayed him, said,  
"Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You  
have said so."

#### The Institution of the Lord's Supper

**26** While they were eating, Jesus took a  
loaf of bread, and after blessing it he  
broke it, gave it to the disciples, and  
said, "Take, eat; this is my body." **27**  
Then he took a cup, and after giving  
thanks he gave it to them, saying,  
"Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is  
my blood of the covenant, which is  
poured out for many for the forgiveness  
of sins. **29** I tell you, I will never again  
drink of this fruit of the vine until that  
day when I drink it new with you in my  
Father's kingdom." **30** When they had  
sung the hymn, they went out to the  
Mount of Olives.



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Take a moment and give thanks  
for your memory of the Lord's Supper



Luke 22:39-46

*Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives*

**39** He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. **40** When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." **41** Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, **42** "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." **43** [[Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. **44** In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] **45** When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, **46** and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Psalms 22: 2 - 5

*L. Oh my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.*

**C. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy one; you are the praise of Israel.**

*L. In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.*

**C. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed**

Mark 14:43-50

*The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*

**43** Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. **44** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." **45** So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. **46** Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. **47** But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. **48** Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? **49** Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not

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Luke 23:34, 42-43

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

**42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." **43**

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

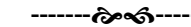


John 19:25-27

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."

**27** Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.



The fifth candle is extinguished

Psalms 22:1, 12 – 18

*L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me so far from my cries of anguish?*

**C: Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**

*L: Roaring Lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.*

**C: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.**

*L: My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.*

**C: Dogs surround me; a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.**

*L: All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.*

**C: They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.**

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**HYMN:**

- 1 **When I survey the wondrous cross** on which the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the cross of Christ my God; the very things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down: did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)



*L. I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone and despised by the people.*

**C. All who see me mock me: they hurl insults, shaking their heads**

**L & C "He trusts in the LORD." they say, let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."**

**Mark 15:25-32a**

**25** It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. **26** The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." **27** And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. **29** Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, **30** save yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. **32** Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

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arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

**50** All of them deserted him and fled.



The first candle is extinguished

**HYMN:**

- 1 **When you prayed beneath the trees,** it was for me, O Lord; when you cried upon your knees, how could it be, O Lord? When in blood and sweat and tears you dismissed your final fears, when you faced the soldiers' spears, you stood for me, O Lord.
- 2 When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord, when it seemed like your defeat, they could not see, O Lord! When you faced the mob alone you were silent as a stone, and a tree became your throne; you came for me, O Lord.
- 3 When you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord, when you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord; When they lifted you on high, and they nailed you up to die, and when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, O Lord.

Christopher Idle

**Luke 22:54-55, 63-66**

**54** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. **55** When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

*The Mocking and Beating of Jesus*

**63** Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; **64** they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" **65** They kept heaping many other insults on him.

*Jesus before the Council*

**66** When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council.



The second candle is extinguished

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## TENEBRAE READINGS FROM THE NRSV BIBLE:

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#### HYMN:

- 1 I could not do without Thee,**  
O Saviour of the lost,  
Whose precious blood redeemed me  
At such tremendous cost;  
Thy righteousness, Thy pardon,  
Thy precious blood must be  
My only hope and comfort,  
My glory and my plea.
- I could not do without Thee,  
I cannot stand alone,  
I have no strength or goodness.  
No wisdom of my own;  
But Thou, beloved Saviour,  
Art all in all to me,  
And weakness will be power  
If leaning hard on Thee.
- I could not do without Thee;  
For years are fleeting fast,  
And soon in solemn loneliness  
The river must be passed:  
But Thou wilt never leave me;  
And though the waves roll high,  
I know Thou wilt be near me  
And whisper: It is I.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)



#### Matt 27:1-2, 11-26

##### *Jesus Brought before Pilate*

**27** When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. **2** They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

##### *Pilate Questions Jesus*

**11** Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." **12** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. **13** Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

**14** But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

##### *Barabbas or Jesus?*

**15** Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.

**16** At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. **17** So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" **18** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

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The third candle is extinguished

#### Mark 15:16-20

##### *The Soldiers Mock Jesus*

**16** Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. **17** And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. **18** And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" **19** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. **20** After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him.

#### John 19:16-17

##### *The Crucifixion of Jesus*

**16** Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; **17** and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.



The fourth candle is extinguished

**19** While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." **20** Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. **21** The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." **22** Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" **23** Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

##### *Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified*

**24** So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." **25** Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" **26** So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

