

The Service of Tenebrae

Many of the events surrounding the last days in the life of Christ are shrouded in darkness. In the fourth century, a solemn observance of the Lord's Supper known as "Tenebrae" was celebrated. The service involved the extinguishing of candles as a reminder of the darkness that covered the earth after the passion and crucifixion of Jesus. The word Tenebrae means darkness or shadows.

The service begins in silence and ends in almost total darkness. The candles are gradually extinguished, symbolic of the gradual flight and denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus during and after the crucifixion. As we experience the pageant unfolding, we are reminded of our own falling away and the consequence of separation from God. However, one light remains; the light of Christ can never be extinguished. In that light we find forgiveness and fellowship in communion with our Lord.

THE DARKNESS OF MISUNDERSTANDING

The Words in the Temple
The Hymn No. 88, v. 1

Mark 11:15-18; John 12:27-36
"Fairest Lord Jesus"

THE DARKNESS OF BETRAYAL

The Words in the Upper Room
The Hymn No. 186, v. 1

Matthew 26:20-28
"The Old Rugged Cross"

THE DARKNESS OF TEMPTATION

The Words in the Garden
The Hymn No. 206, v. 1

Matthew 26:30-31, 36-48
"There Is a Redeemer"

THE DARKNESS OF INJUSTICE

The Words of the Trial
The Hymn No. 185, v. 1

Mark 14:53, 57-64; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:7, 11
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

THE DARKNESS OF DENIAL

The Words in the Courtyard
The Hymn No. 102

Mark 14:66-72
"There's Something About That Name"

THE DARKNESS OF REJECTION

The Words before Pilate
The Hymn No. 178, v. 1

Luke 23:13-24
"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

THE DARKNESS OF CRUCIFIXION

The Words from the Cross

Luke 23:33-34, 39-43; John 19:26-30;
Matthew 27:45-46; Luke 23:46-48

DARKNESS

Sitting silently in the darkness, we reflect upon the gravity of the events taking place. A harsh noise is heard, indicating the closing of the tomb. The light of the Christ Candle continues to glow in anticipation of our Lord's resurrection. He is "the light of the world".

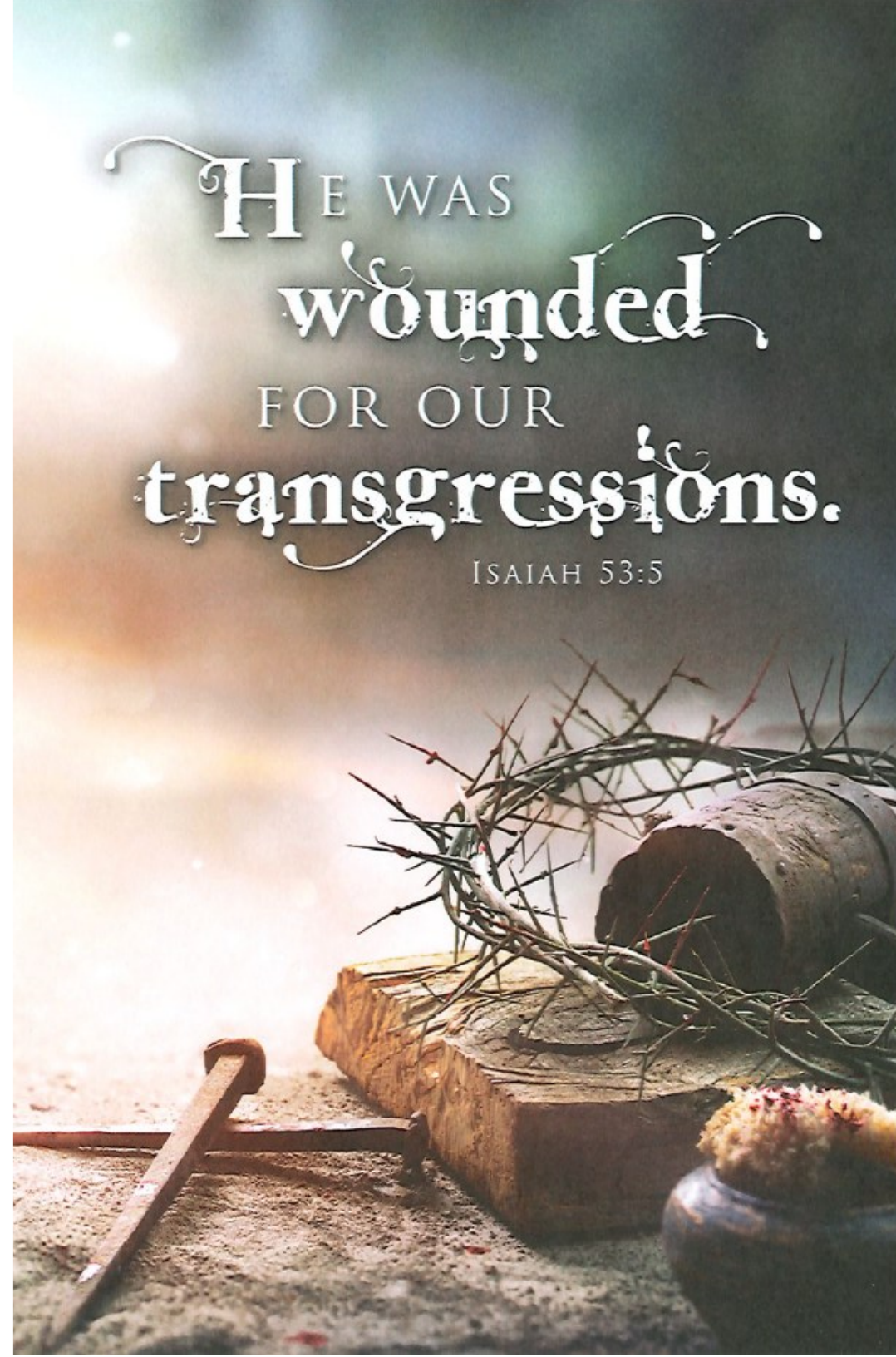
The chimes ring for each year of Jesus' human life.

The Hymn No. 181, vv. 1-3

"Were You There?"

THE SILENT RECESSION – At the conclusion of the service, please depart in silence with a reverent sense of God's presence.

***Those who are able, please stand.**



THE ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025

7:30 pm, A Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply

David Steel, Service Leader



Silent Preparation

After He had washed their feet, had put on His robe, and had returned to the table, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

John 13:12-15

The Call to Worship (from Psalm 22)

Leader: You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor Him! Revere Him, all you descendants of Israel!

People: **For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from Him, but has listened to His cry for help.**

Leader: 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 dominion belongs to the Lord. Come, let us worship our God!

*** The Hymn No.297, vv. 1, 3**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

*** The Declaration of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

The Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving

The Prayers of Silent Confession and Repentance

The Prayer of Confession

Responsive

Leader: Gracious Jesus, You have redeemed us by Your death and enabled us through Your resurrection to begin new lives, transformed by Your Holy Spirit to be living tabernacles in the midst of a fallen world.

People: **We confess this evening, Lord, that too often we conform to the desires of the world instead of drawing close to You in faithful obedience. Take our sins, O God, and bury them again with You so that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is pleasing to You, for Your sake we pray. Amen.**

The Assurance of Forgiveness

***The Gloria Patri No. 623**

"Glory be to..."

Welcome and Announcements

The Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

Leader: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be.

People: **All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.**

***The Doxology No. 625**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Meditation and the Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth and create the fruit of the vine. You made us in Your image, and freed us from the bonds of slavery. You claimed us as Your people, and made covenant to be our God. You fed us manna in the wilderness, and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey. When we forgot You, and our faith was weak, You spoke through the prophets, calling us to turn again to Your ways. Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Prayer of Blessing

The Lord's Prayer No. 426 (Sung in unison)

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***The Hymn** (see insert)

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom