

Wednesday in Holy Week
Taizé Tenebrae Service
March 31, 2021
7:00 pm

Welcome and Orientation

[As we gather online please take an opportunity to share your name and location by clicking on the "Chat" icon at the bottom of your screen and typing in a message.]

Opening Remarks

We welcome you to our Wednesday Taizé Tenebrae service. The name "Tenebrae" is the Latin word for darkness or shadows. The work "Taizé" comes from the French community of that name and this prayerful music which originated there.

Tonight, as we listen to the readings, we will experience only a small portion of Christ's pain and suffering on the day of His crucifixion. One of the features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of the Taizé candles until only a single candle remains—the Christ Candle, which is a symbol of our Lord. As it gets darker and darker, we can reflect on the great emotional and physical pain that was very real to Jesus that evening.

The Christ candle is then hidden, symbolizing the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. The Strepitus—the loud, harsh noise, that follows—echoes several scriptural sounds: the final cries of Jesus, the earthquake at his death (Matthew 27:45-54), the shutting of His tomb, and the second earthquake at His rising (Matthew 28:2). The hidden Christ Candle is then restored to its place, symbolizing the resurrection and the triumph of good over evil.

The Service

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Blessed be God who forgives all our sins;

Community: **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Leader: God be with you.

Community: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us allow a moment for silent prayer.

[Please pray with us in silence for a full minute.]

Leader: Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Song

"Holy Spirit Come to Us"

[We will sing the song three or four times.]

Holy Spirit, come to us.
Kindle in us
the fire of your love.
Holy Spirit, come to us.
Holy Spirit, come to us.

The Lessons

Reader 1: "Take this cup..." — Mark 14:32-42

"Nada te turbe/Nothing can Trouble"
[We will sing the song twice in both languages, then once between readings.]

*Nada te turbe, nada te espante, quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada te espante. Solo Dios basta.*
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who see God shall never
go wanting. Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills
us.

Reader 2: The Kiss — Mark 14:43-50
[Song]

Reader 3: The Rooster Crows — Mark 14:66-72
[Song]

Reader 4: "What is the truth?" — John 18:33-38a
[Song]

Reader 5: "Hail, King...!" — Mark 15:16-20
[Song]

[The Christ Candle is hidden.]

Leader: Let us pray.

Community: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Song

"Adoramus te Christe/We Adore You, Jesus Christ"
[We will sing the song three times in English.]

We adore you, Jesus Christ, and we bless your holy name;

truly your cross and passion bring us life and healing,
truly your cross and passion bring us life and healing.

Leader: Most gracious God, look with mercy upon your family gathered here for whom our Savior Jesus Christ was betrayed, given unto sinful hands, and suffered death upon the cross. Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of Christ's passion; through Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Closing

[The Strepitus sounds. The Christ Candle is returned.]

[Our worship service is ended, but our service continues. Please stay for announcements and chat, our version of online hospitality and connection.]