



Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Order of Service

Tolling of the church bells – 33 times

The tradition at Trinity for many years was to toll the tower bells to mark the death of one of our own. The bells were tolled once for each year of that person's time on earth. Tonight, we toll the bells 33 times to mark the number of years from Jesus' birth until his death on Good Friday. Of course, we know that this would not really be the end of his life. On the third day, he would rise again. And the God-Man still lives today! However, tonight we consider his Passion; his suffering and death on the cross.

A Tenebrae Service is a service of shadows. While the church will soon be darker than usual during the opening confession and absolution, and for the singing of the first hymn, the above lights will go out completely during the first Passion History reading, when the pastor reads, "***the sun stopped shining.***"

Quartet

"There is a Redeemer"

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
(Refrain)

Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.
(Refrain)

When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.
(Refrain)

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946

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Please stand, if you are able

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We come here tonight to stand before the cross of Christ and to consider his death. We do so, because we know that he died for us, and for our sins. It is fitting then, that we confess our sins to God before hearing his sure absolution and forgiveness.

Therefore, I now ask you before God, who searches the heart:

1. Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and have deserved his wrath and punishment? Then declare so by saying, ***"I do confess."***

Truly, you should confess; for Holy Scripture declares, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

2. Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed? Then declare so, by saying, ***"I do repent."***

Truly, you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the lost son; and others.

3. Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins? Then declare so by saying, ***"I do believe."***

Truly, you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares that "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."

4. Do you promise that, with the aid of God the Holy Spirit, you will amend your sinful life? Then declare so by saying, ***"I do promise."***

Truly, you should promise. For Christ, the Lord, says, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

5. Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins? Then declare so by saying, "***I do believe.***"

As you believe, even so may it be to you.

And upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pray:

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we now hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

425 Go to Dark Gethsemane

CW 425



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



tempt - er's pow'r; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - raigned. Oh, the worm - wood and the gall,
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.



watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his
oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
pain, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
Text and tune: Public domain

Passion History – Part Six – Jesus' Death on the Cross

Solo

"God Was There on Calvary"

God was there on Calvary, God the Father's only Son,
dying that the world might live, there on Calvary.

All the world on Calvary crucified the Prince of life,
pierced the hands of God's own Son, there on Calvary.

Life was there on Calvary, flowing from his wounded side,
spent that death itself might die there on Calvary.

We were there on Calvary; we were pardoned, saved, set free,
saved to live eternally— blessed Calvary!

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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Passion History – Part Seven – Jesus' Burial

426 Were You There

CW 426



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh,
there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh,
there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh,



some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African-American spiritual, 19th cent., abr.
Tune: African-American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Romans 5:8

“Christ Died for Us”

Please stand, if you are able

Good Friday Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

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 forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Please be seated

Solo

"The Old Rugged Cross"

All leave in silence



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Serving in Worship

Officiant Pastor Ralph Stuebs
Organist Marcia Marion-Ackling
Deacons Dave Frey and Jim Tice
Quartet Paula Phelps, Beth Music, Jim Tice, Tom Amerman
Soloists Jim Tice and Beth Music
Accompanist Marcia Marion-Ackling
Altar Guild Jean Fiegel and Ann Latowski
Videographer Jeff Neuburger

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES will be at 6:30 and 9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion offered during both services. (Please take note of the special times for Easter worship!) An Easter Breakfast will be served by the Teens and Tweens beginning at approximately 8:00 a.m. A free-will offering will be taken to cover the expenses of the breakfast.