

TENEBRAE

A CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

By Rick Vale & Jay Rouse

Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Larry Roff, associate pastor

Maunder Thursday, April 9, 2009 • 7:00 PM

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Before every morning, there is an evening. Before each sunrise is a sunset. So it was that long week during the Passover, when Jesus walked through each day...knowing what we know now, and still do not fully comprehend. Knowing that He must be unjustly betrayed, beaten, accused, cursed and killed...so that we would not have to continue trying to pay a debt that is deeper than the universe is broad.

The morning of that first day of the week is a glorious and wonderful thing to think upon; and it carries more weight as we grow older...and wiser. But the days preceding, though not as pleasant in our minds, need to be remembered...so we can put Easter Morning in the right perspective.

Before there was the bright glow of Easter, there was a darkening...a time when events and situations worked deviously to a glorious end. A time when Jesus' disciples were confounded and confused, when the darkness seemed to win. And yet, during those days...even then...God the Father worked His will. Was it His plan that Judas should betray His Son? Was it His plan that His Church should be run by evil men with plots and sub-plots in place to keep their own power secure? These are questions for others to debate...for me, it is evident that God worked through all these things, not only accomplishing the miracle of risen life, but also the final sacrifice needed to pay my debt...our debt.

This service of TENEBRAE (Latin, meaning, "the darkening") has been observed in some form or another since the 12th Century and perhaps even before. This quiet service of word and song and candlelight acknowledges, once again, the love that Jesus has for you and me...and what He would subject Himself to...for our benefit. This is the evening before the morning...the shadow in the sunlight...the darkening, before the dawn.

Prelude *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*
Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship Isaiah 53:5-6

Hymn #244 *He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions*
OAK PARK

Invocation

Scripture Matthew 27:45-54

Sermon *The Darkness That Brought the Light*



Day Is Dying in the West
Come into the Presence of the Lord
This Is My Father's World
Alleluia, Amen
The God of Abraham Praise
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Sing We Noel
Come into the Presence of the Lord (Reprise)
Jesus Loves Me
My Heart Is Not My Own
Hallelujah! What a Savior
For My Cross, and For My Crown

*** We ask that you exit in quietness after the Christ candle is extinguished. ***



Candlelighting: Katie Gocio & Emily Wade

Soloists: Carl Ashley, Marie Ashley, Michelle Brookman, Janet Faulk, & Jim Forester

Narrator: Steve Van Roekel

Sound: John Stelter

Props: Norma Ashley & Tom Sayer

Rehearsal Assistants: Marie Ashley & Norma Ashley

Special Thanks: Saint Andrew's School, Tom Sayer, & Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ