

A Tenebrae Service¹

People are encouraged to enter quietly and sombrelly.

If possible, have the full hymns / songs and verses from hymns / songs printed for people to have during the service. These should then be sung unannounced, so that there is no interruption in the flow of the service.

If possible, all songs should be sung unaccompanied.

WE GATHER AT THE CROSS

A giant cross is brought into the church. The cross bearer proceeds very slowly, pausing at a half-dozen locations briefly. When he/she arrives at the front of the worship space, she/he sets the cross upright in a stand, or rests it against a wall.

The Call to Worship *Succinct, and a welcome to the journey of walking through the seven words of Jesus and visiting the scene of the cross.*

Reading Matthew 27:27-36

Song of Adoration

WE STAND AT THE CROSS

This section of the liturgy includes the reading of the seven words of Jesus from the cross, and sets the drama at Calvary before the worshippers, calling them to response.

Plan to gradually dim the light in the sanctuary or to extinguish a candle after each reading.

Song of Faith

The First Word Luke 23:32-34
Sung Response ²

The Second Word Luke 23:39-43
Sung Response

The Third Word John 19:25-27
Sung Response

The Fourth Word Mark 15:33-36
Sung Response

The Fifth Word John 19:28-29
Sung Response

The Sixth Word John 19:30
Sung Response

¹ This can be held either on Maundy Thursday evening or Good Friday afternoon.

² The sung responses can be single verses from hymns / songs. Some can also be short pieces of instrumental music.

The Last Word

Luke 23:46-49

The tolling of the bell

A bell is rung seven times, slowly, to remind all worshipers of the fullness of Jesus' suffering. After the seventh ring, a pause of silence for reflection is helpful.

During the tolling, the lights of the church can be gradually dimmed, so that only a light on the empty cross remains.

Song of Adoration

WE GATHER AT HIS TABLE AND SHARE IN HIS DEATH

The Words of Invitation

The Institution of the Lord's Supper Matthew 26:26-30

The Prayer of Consecration

Our Participation in the Bread *Followed by time for reflection*

Our Participation in the Cup *Followed by time for reflection*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE GO OUT WITH PEACE AND GRATITUDE

Acclamation of Praise

Revelation 5:11-14

Song of Gratitude

Blessing

People are encouraged to leave quietly and sombrelly.

They are also invited to return in a spirit of anticipation and celebration on Easter Sunday morning to mark the resurrection of Jesus.