

TENEBRAE SERVICE



Holy Week
Wednesday, March 28
7:00 PM in Church

The word Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." The Tenebrae service is an ancient tradition in Christian history that took place on the last days of Holy Week. The purpose of this service is to remember the somber events that occurred in Jesus' life from the exuberant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the night of Jesus' burial on Good Friday.

The most distinctive aspect of the service is the use of a Tenebrae candles. The flames of these candles are extinguished one by one as Scripture readings are shared to tell the story of Holy Week. This gradual descent into gloom is a representation of Jesus' increasing sorrow as the events of Passion Week unfolded. After the last verse is read, the Easter Candle is processed out, and the room is plunged into darkness. The service ends, and the community leaves in contemplative silence, as we await the light of the new Easter Candle.

Service of Shadows