

Pastor: Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Second Lesson: Hebrew 4:14-5:12

The Hymn

The Passion According To St. John: John 18:1 - 19:42

The Hymn

The Homily

The Gathering Of The Offerings

The Bidding Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship Him in peace and tranquility.

People: Almighty and eternal God, You have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for those preparing for Baptism, that God will make them responsive to His love, and give them new life in Jesus Christ.

People: Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them a new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your Holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for Matthew Harrison, the president of our Synod, and Chris Wicher, the president of our District, for our pastors and other ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

People: Almighty and eternal God, your spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastor and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one Church all those who know Christ as Lord.

People: Almighty and eternal God, you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our Baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promise.

People: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Hear the prayers of your Church that the people you first made your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

People: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find Him who is the author and goal of our existence.

People: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, they may all recognize in the lives of Christians, the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

People: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger and disease.

People: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Procession of the Cross (to be repeated 3 times)

Pastor: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

The Hymn

The Last Lesson: The Last Lesson, following the Bidding Prayer is a collection of passages from the prophets concerning the death and passion of our Lord. After each verse, one of the lights on the Tenebrae hearse is extinguished, signifying the awful nature of sin and its consequences. After the last passage, the Christ candle is removed, signifying the burial of Christ.

The Lord's Prayer (whispered)

Following the Our Father, a harsh noise is made and the Bible is slammed shut signifying the breaking of the bonds of sin and death.

The Dismissal

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE (or Shadows) is one of the most ancient liturgies in the Christian Church. The feelings evoked as the darkness surrounds us make a striking impact. The contrast with the joy of Easter worship, just two days away, is part of its effect on all worshippers.

We are pleased that you could join us and experience this service and allow God to touch your life in such a way.