

The Way of Sorrows

A Tenebrae Service for Good Friday

P Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be 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.

C Amen.

In the steps our Savior trod
Let us follow faithfully,
Where the sinless Son of God
Went to set us sinners free,
Mark each footstep in the strife
Of the Way, the Truth, the Life.

1. Jesus Is Condemned Isaiah 53:8 · Luke 23:13-25

Psalms 17

D Hear me out, God! Listen to my case: I speak the truth. You be my judgment!

C Search my heart; search it in the darkness of night. Test me with fire. See my innocence.

D I speak no evil. I have kept your word, walking steadfastly in your path.

C My feet have not stumbled.

D I call out to you, God, for you will hear me.

C Listen! Hear what I have to say. Show your great love, O saving God.

D Let me flee to you.

C Let me be your beloved, sheltering beneath your wings, safe from wicked brutes.

D My enemies hem me in, craving my flesh. There is no pity in them, only boastful words.

C They draw near like ravenous lions, crouched, ready to spring, eyes fixed upon me, eager for the kill.

D But my reward is to behold your face;

C It is enough for me to awake in your presence.

2. Jesus Carries His Cross Isaiah 53:7 · John 19:16-17a

Psalms 55

D Hear me, God! Do not turn away!

C Listen! Answer me! Grief cuts me to the core.

D See me shudder at the enemy's shouts, at the jeers of the wicked.

C Hear their twisted lies and spiteful curses.

D My heart quivers, stricken by death's terrors;

C Fear has me in its grip, and I tremble.

D I pray for wings like a dove to fly far, far away.

C I would flee to the wilderness and build a nest there.



D There I would rest from this tempest, God,

C There, far from raging tongues.

D It was my friends who turned on me, not some foe I could shrug off, but close friends.

C We used to pray together.

D See their wickedness, God. See how they befriend evil.

C I cry out to you, morning, noon and night. I complain bitterly.

D But you have listened, God. You have heard my case.

C You break their power over me, saving God. You give me peace.

D Take my burdens, God; save me from stumbling.

C I will trust in you always.

3. Jesus Falls Beneath His Cross Isaiah 53:2b-4, 11b

Psalms 38

D God, in your great anger do not chastise or punish me.

C Your arrows have struck deep; your hand weighs heavily upon me.

D Because of your rage, my flesh wastes away;

C Because of my sin, my bones grow brittle.

D I am bent by guilt, burdened by the load; my wounds reek and fester.

C Broken by folly, I walk in sorrow, grieving all the day long.

D My flesh burns, consumed by fever.

C Bruised and stamped upon, I cry out, groaning from the heart.

D Lord, you see all secrets, you hear my sighs.

C My heart breaks, all my strength has fled, even my eyes grow dim.

D Friends shrink from my wounds; relatives keep their distance.

C Enemies set snares, hatch plots, threaten death.

D But I am deaf to their words, silent at their taunts.

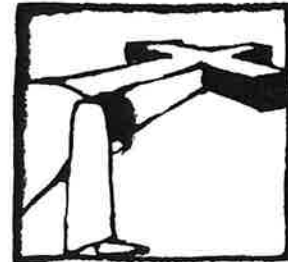
C I am like one who, hearing nothing, gives no answer.

D For it is you I trust, my God, you who can answer them.

C Stop their gloating and boasting when I stumble.

D God, do not leave me alone. Do not abandon me.

C Come, quickly save me, O God, my God.



4. Simon Helps Carry the Cross Isaiah 53:11b · Luke 23:26

Psalms 25

D I worship you, my God, I trust you; save me from disgrace, from the jeers of my foes.

C It is those who break faith who are the fools, not the ones who wait for you.

D Show me your path, God. Teach me, guide me, lead me in truth,

C For you are my God. I have waited for you all day.

D Remember your tenderness, your endless love,

C And forget the sins of my youth, my frailties. Because of your goodness, remember me, God.

D You show sinners the straight road, leading the poor to justice.



C Those who keep your law walk in kindness and truth. For the sake of your name, forgive me.

D I love you, O God. Show me the way I should choose, the path of blessing.

C You are friend to those who love you, to those who cherish your law.

D I fix my eyes upon you,

C For you will free me from the trap.

D Look at me, God; pity me. I am sad and alone.

C Lighten my heart, my heavy burden. Heal my festering wounds.

D Let me shelter in you. Give me integrity for a shield because I wait for you.

C Rescue me, God, from all my troubles.

5. Jesus Meets the Women Isaiah 52:14-15 · Luke 23:27-31

Psalms 4

D God, my justice, answer me.

C Comfort me in my distress; in your kindness hear me.

D The narrow-hearted close me out;

C Steeped in lies, they chase false gods.

D I say to them, "Know that God protects me; God hears when I cry out."

C I say to them, "Tremble. Sin no more. Spend the night in prayer. Trust God. Make justice your sacrifice."

D They say, "Who will bring happiness? Let the light of God's face shine on us!"

C God, you bring me richer joy than all their grain and wine. I fall asleep peacefully, secure in your love.



6. Jesus Is Stripped Isaiah 53:6 · John 19:23-24

Psalms 31

D I shelter in you, God; take away my shame.

C Save me! Set me free! Listen! Come quickly!

D Be my rock of safety, my stronghold, my fortress.

C God, my rock, I call on your name! Lead me! Guide me!

D Untangle me from the net; draw me close to you.

C I place myself in your hands, God, my safety. I trust you; I delight in your love, in your faithfulness, O God.

D You saw my pain, my wounded spirit;

C You saved me from the cage and set me free.

D Pity me, God. Grief grips me; misery strangles me.

C There is so much pain—the years are filled with sighs. I grow weak! How brittle are my bones!

D Enemies hound me down. Neighbors scoff and scorn.

C My friends desert me, avoiding my gaze as though I am a corpse, one of the damned.

D But I trust you, God; I am yours alone.

C Let your love shine upon me, now and always.

D Let those who love you know your embrace. Let them see your justice.

C Teach them to take heart, to trust in you, O God.



7. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross Mark 15:22-25



"The Seven Words" Melody: Southwell SM

Our Savior speaks in grace with words of mercy true:
"Forgive them, Father," thus he prays; "They know not what they do."

His wondrous pity see! Unto the thief he cries:
"Today, I tell you, you will be with me in paradise."

To Mary, looking on, "Behold your son," he says.
"Behold your mother," thus on John love's burden gently lays.

Now hear the awful cry, sin's dreadful burden see.
"My God, my God," the Son shouts, "Why have you forsaken me?"

As one of us he dies. Sin's pow'r has done its worst.
From hell's dread agony he cries a simple word: "I thirst."

"Tis finished," says the Lord. The burden on him laid
Of sinful thought and deed and word—the debt is fully paid.

"Father, into your hands my spirit I commend."
And he who hears and understands receives him at the end.

8. Jesus Dies on the Cross Isaiah 53:5 · John 19:30b-37

Psalm 16

D Keep me, God. You are my safety, my only happiness. I delight in fidelity.

C Those who chase other gods bring troubles upon themselves. When they pour out blood offerings and praise the names of idols, I will not join them.

D You, God, are all I have; everything depends on you.

C You guide me; you teach my heart, O God.

D I will bless you.

C I will think of you always, mindful of your presence, O God my strength.

D You will not abandon me or leave me among the dead.

C No, you will lead me to life, to endless joy, at your right hand, forever.



9. Jesus Is Taken from the Cross Isaiah 53:10a, 11a · Mark 15:42-46a

Psalm 46

D God of shelter, God of strength, saving God:
Even if the earth shudders, even if mountains
tumble into sea depths, making the waters churn
and seethe, we shall not be afraid.

C You are with us, God our stronghold, God
of Jacob!

D Joy streams through your city, through your
sacred dwelling.

C You are with us, God; the city cannot fall.

D At dawn you scatter the enemy; kingdoms topple, earth crumbles at the sound of
your voice.

C You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!

D Come, let us see God's wonders, God's saving deeds!

C He breaks the bow, snaps the spear, burns the shield, stamps out war.

D "Be still!" says God. "Know that I hold power over all peoples."

C You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!



10. Jesus Is Buried Isaiah 53:9 · John 19:41-42

D Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on
your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was
willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the
hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross;

[these words are whispered:]

who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.



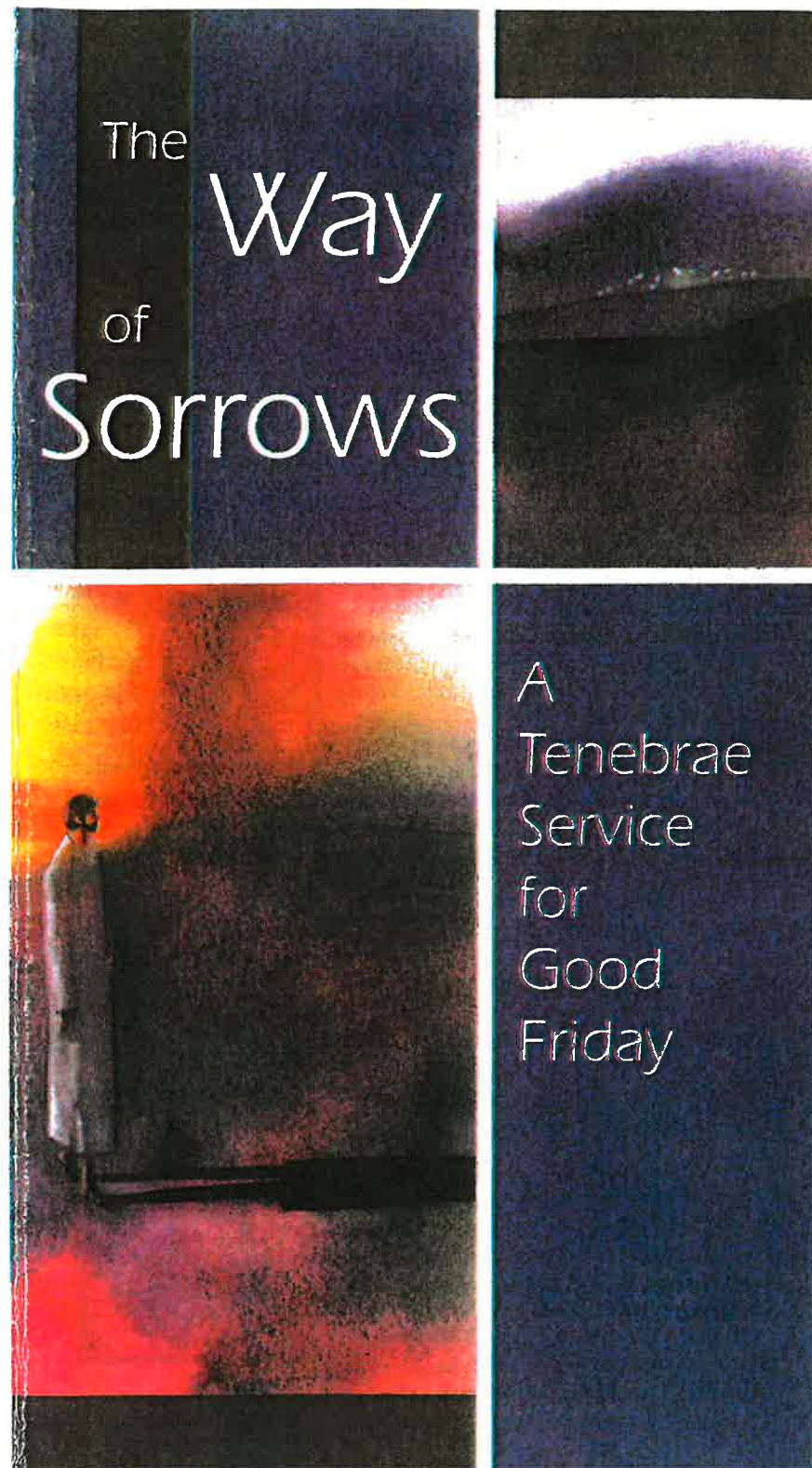
The congregation stands and whispers The Lord's Prayer.

The Christ Candle is removed.

Isaiah 53:12

The sound of the strepitus is heard, a harsh noise signifying the closing of the
tomb and the earthquake. Then the Christ Candle is returned to the chancel, in
anticipation of our Lord's resurrection.

All leave in silence.



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