

Home Tenebrae Service

The Liturgy of Shadows



Supplies - 7 Candles, Small flashlight for reader, Readings or Bible with readings 1-7 Marked

Introduction

This service, typically held in a Church and with 15 candles, has been shortened for families. The readings are chosen to focus on the Passion events and present a somber, solemn tone during these last days of Lent. This service can be held at anytime appropriate especially Wednesday through early Saturday of Holy Week. A great practice is to turn off all lights when practical so that only the 7 candles illuminate the darkness. This allows the family to see the growing darkness as each candle is extinguished.

'Tenebrae' means darkness or shadows. As we come to the end of Lent, we begin a journey into darkness to a place of deep shadows. Today we accompany Jesus in his last hours. We witness the cruelties and the suffering he endures. We listen to the words of condemnation and ridicule. In all this he is innocent. He is the faithful servant of God, doing his Father's work; bringing the gospel of love, peace and hope. And so, in this liturgy, we are invited to walk solemnly and attentively with Jesus.

1. **Jesus Eats His Last Supper with His Disciples** - Matthew 26:17-29

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The first candle is extinguished in silence.

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2. **Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested** - Matthew 26:-36-56

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The second candle is extinguished in silence.

3. **Jesus appears before Pontius Pilate** - Mark 15: 1-15

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The third candle is extinguished in silence.

4. **Jesus is Crucified** - Mark 15:16-32

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The fourth candle is extinguished in silence.

5. **Jesus dies on the Cross** - Matthew 27:45-54

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The fifth candle is extinguished in silence.

6. **Suffering Servant** - Isaiah 52:13-53:5

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The sixth candle is extinguished in silence.

7. **Jesus is laid in the Tomb** - Matthew 27:62-66

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The seventh candle is moved to another part of the home and all depart in silence. This is symbolic of Christ in the tomb but we know the darkness cannot overcome the light.

May God bless you and your family during this most Holy time. Share your ideas for this and other home prayer experiences with us at www.jamesmhahn.com
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