



A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Holy Thursday | April 1, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410 — 785-263-2623 — www.abilenefirstumc.org

Introduction to the Service

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world

and we loved darkness rather than light.

Opening Prayer

HYMN*

O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done

H-287

1. O Love divine, what hast thou done! The immortal God hath died for me!
The Father's co-eternal Son bore all my sins upon the tree.
Th' immortal God for me hath died: My Lord, my Love, is crucified!
2. Is crucified for me and you, to bring us rebels back to God.
Believe, believe the record true, ye all are bought with Jesus' blood.
Pardon for all flows from his side: My Lord, my Love, is crucified!

3. Behold him, all ye that pass by, the bleeding Prince of life and peace!
Come, sinners, see your Savior die, and say, "Was ever grief like his?"
Come, feel with me his blood applied: My Lord, my Love, is crucified!

— Words by Charles Wesley, 1742

The Passion of Jesus Christ from the Gospel of John

A Time of Silent Meditation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have called us to serve others as Christ has served us.

We confess that we have not followed his example as fully or as often as we should.

You have commanded us to love one another as Christ loved us.

We confess that we do not love so generously.

Forgive us, merciful God, and cleanse us of all our sin;

and guide our feet to walk with you always.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus Christ loved us and chose us unto and through the bitter end.

He knows us fully, and yet he continues to reach out to us in love and forgiveness.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN*

'Tis Finished! The Messiah Dies

H-282

1. 'Tis finished! the Messiah dies, cut off for sins, but not his own.

Accomplished is the sacrifice, the great redeeming work is done.

2. The veil is rent; in Christ alone the living way to heaven is seen;

the middle wall is broken down, and all the world may enter in.

3. 'Tis finished! All my guilt and pain, I want no sacrifice beside;

for me, for me the Lamb is slain; 'tis finished! I am justified.

4. The reign of sin and death is o'er, and all may live from sin set free;

Satan hath lost his mortal power; 'tis swallowed up in victory.

— Words by Charles Wesley, 1749-51, and 1762

Dismissal

ABOUT THE READINGS: The readings given for tonight's service were translated from the Greek by James H. Charlesworth. He accurately translates John 18:1-19:42, with special sensitivity to Jews, Judaism, Jesus' Jewishness, and the Jewish origins of Christianity. They are taken from *The United Methodist Book of Worship* — Copyright © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.