



A Service of Shadows
Friday, March 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Tolling of the Bells

Officiant: Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Candles

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

People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

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

People: And we loved darkness rather than light.

Refrain:



PSALM: Psalm 31:9–16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)



⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I¹ am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat¹ and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my¹ years with
sighing;**

**my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones¹ are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
 a dismay to | my acquaintances;
 when they see me in the street | they avoid me.
¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;**
 I am as useless as a | broken pot. R
¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all
 around;
 they put their heads together against me;
 they plot to | take my life.
¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.**
 I have said, "You | are my God.
¹⁵My times are | in your hand;
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who | persecute me.
¹⁶**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**
 save me in your | steadfast love." R

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The Shadow of Betrayal

Reading: Matthew 26:20-25

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

What Wondrous Love is This

Hymn 439

The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit and Arrest

Reading: Matthew 26:36-50

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.” While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Choral Anthem: In Dark Gethsemane, arr. Trevor Manor

The Shadow of Denial

Reading Luke 22:54-62

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Ah, holy Jesus, vs. 1, 2, and 5

Hymn 158

The Shadow of Accusation

Reading: Mark 15:1-15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

“Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Hymn 172

The Shadow of Mockery

Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

O sacred head sore wounded, vs. 1-3

Hymn 168

The Shadow of Crucifixion

Reading: Luke 23:32-43

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by,

watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Hymn: Jesus, Remember Me



Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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The Shadow of Death

Reading: John 19:25-30

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Choral Anthem: O Come and Mourn, arr. Hal Hopson

Christ candle is removed.

The Shadow of Burial

Reading: John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

A loud noise signifies the closing of the tomb.

Return of the Christ Candle

Officiant: All the candles have been extinguished but one. Even in the darkest hour, the light of Christ can never depart from us. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning.

Congregation leaves in silence.

St. Bartholomew's Music Director and Organist

Lauren Fisher

St. Luke's Choir Director and Music Director

Helen Weems

Broadcast Technician Ann Fitts

Officiant The Rev. Victoria Clayton

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 5005, Laytonsville, MD 20882

21611 Laytonsville Rd. Laytonsville, MD 20882

Office: 301-355-7189

Rector - Rev. Victoria Clayton

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