Tenebrae (Latin for “shadows” or “darkness”) is a solemn observance of Jesus’s passion and death. The Tenebrae service marks Jesus’s journey to Golgotha and allows for extended meditation through proclamation of the Word in scripture and sermon, as well as through music, increasing darkness, and silent reflection. At Duke Chapel, we gather on the evening of Good Friday to enter into the dramatic narrative of Jesus’s betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion, and to reflect on God’s sacrificial love.
The congregation is asked to remain silent during the opening voluntar as a time of prayer and meditation.

Gathering
Opening Voluntaries

Herzlich tut mich verlangen
(O Sacred Head, Now Wounded)

Herzliebster Jesu
(Ah, Holy Jesus)

Greeting

*Opening Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an off’ring far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

*All rise as able
Proclamation
Prayer of Illumination | In unison:

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading | OT pages 473–474 in the pew Bible.

Psalm 22:1, 12–18, 21–24, 30–31

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Language of Lament

Response
Anthem

Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
that caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
that Christ should lay aside his crown for my soul.

O my soul, what wondrous, wondrous, love.

—anonymous; 19th century American
Lesson I: Jesus is betrayed in a garden.

John 18:1–11

First candle extinguished

Hymn | Sung by the choir.

Stay with Me

Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray. Watch and pray.

—Matthew 26:38, 41, adapt.

Lesson II: Jesus is denied by Peter.

John 18:12–27

Second candle extinguished

Hymn | All sing stanzas 1 and 3; the choir sings stanza 2.

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

How pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish,
which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion
were all for sinners’ gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.
What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

Lesson III: Jesus and Barabbas before Pilate.

John 18:28–40

*Third candle extinguished*

Hymn | Sung by all.

*Ah, Holy Jesus*  
*HERZLIEBSTER JESU*

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
’Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Lesson IV: Jesus stands trial before the crowds.

John 19:1–16a

*Fourth candle extinguished*
Hymn | Sung by the choir.

Calvary (Ev’ry Time I Think About Jesus)  
Black spiritual

Calvary, Calvary...  
surely he died on Calvary.

Ev’ry time I think about Jesus,  
surely he died on Calvary.

Don’t you hear the hammer ringing?  
Surely he died on Calvary.

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?  
Surely he died on Calvary.

Lesson V: Jesus is crucified.

John 19:16b–25a  
Fifth candle extinguished

Hymn | Sung by all.

Were You There  
WERE YOU THERE

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Lesson VI: Jesus dies.

John 19:25b–30

*Sixth candle extinguished*

**Carillon** | The carillon’s lowest bell tolls 33 times, signifying each year of Christ’s life.

Lesson VII: Jesus is buried in a garden.

John 19:31–42

**Silence** | The end of the service is signified by the repose of the Christ candle in the crypt and the illumination of the draped cross in the chancel. Please remain seated until the side aisles are lighted to facilitate leaving. Silence is observed throughout the sanctuary from this time forward. All are welcome to pray and meditate as long as desired. If you would like to receive anointing with oil and prayers for healing, a minister will be in Memorial Chapel after the worship service.

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**TODAY IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Minister**
Carol Gregg ........................................... *Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

**Preacher**
Luke A. Powery ........................................... *Dean, Duke University Chapel*

**Lectors**
Loey Allen ........................................... *Chapel Scholar; Trinity ’25*
Daniel Castelo ............... *William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, Associate Dean for Academic Formation, Duke Divinity School*
Mitchell Eithun ........................................... *Intern for Worship and Student Engagement, Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel; Divinity ’25*
Garrett Kaiser ........................................... *Chapel Scholar; Divinity ’25*
Dorcas Lawal ........................................... *Chapel Scholar; Fuqua ’23*
Meaghan Nuckols ........................................... *Chapel Scholar; Law ’25*
Emilee Ogden ........................................... *Pastoral Intern, Congregation at Duke Chapel; Divinity ’25*
The Congregation at Duke University Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.