

Maundy Thursday



Candlelight Communion
and Tenebrae Service

Maundy Thursday / Tenebrae

April 17, 2025

We gather as the church family to honor our Lord's Last Supper on this evening traditionally known as 'Maundy Thursday' – for Jesus' "new commandment" (*Latin: mandatum novum*).

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also love one another."

John 13:34

The mood of Communion will grow as it did many years ago as we hear what Jesus had to say to us, and finally receive the symbols of His eternal love; before proceeding into the pensive events that follow into that night and on into Friday.

INTROIT "*Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love*" Based on "Pavane" by Gabriel Fauré, arr. A.R. Petker

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: You who call upon the name of Christ; we are gathered to recall the story of the night in which Jesus was betrayed. Are you prepared to mark the final hours of our Lord, whose life was poured out for you?

People: By the grace of God, we are.

Leader: Are you ready to sit at table with Jesus and embrace the question, "Is it I, Lord?"

People: By the mercy of God, we are.

Leader: Are you able to watch with Jesus at prayer in the garden, indeed to struggle yourselves to be in unity with God's will?

People: By the grace of God, we are.

Leader: Then let us praise God, even in this hour of betrayal and darkness.

All: God of all grace and steadfast love, walk with us and grant us courage to follow as we praise you even in this time of shadows.

"An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare" O WALY WALY

An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.

PRAYER OF PRESENCE (Unison)

O Jesus Christ, suffering Servant, Lamb of God – we gather to hear anew a story from of old, to ponder its message and to learn from you the power of trust in our God. Your way leads to richest life – but we often find it difficult to follow.

Be with us this night we pray, that in our sharing, we may be inspired to appreciate again your giving on our behest – to glimpse anew the wondrous love you show – and to be strengthened in our resolve to make that love visible in the world. In your name, O Savior and Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM “*I Will Remember Thee*” Jay Althouse

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND GIVING OF THE CUP (See insert)

BLESSING

“*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*” HAMBURG

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.

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

The Service of Tenebrae

THOUGHTS ON “GOOD FRIDAY”

Tenebrae is a Latin word which means shadows and is applied to this service because the sequence of order is accompanied by ever deepening shadows. Candles representing the Apostles are extinguished until only the Christ Candle gives light. Finally, even this is extinguished. The extinguishing of the candles is symbolic of the flight of the disciples and the resentment of the world leading

to the final isolation of Jesus on the cross. After a brief period of total darkness, the Christ Candle is relighted as a prophecy of Easter soon to dawn, a prayer of dedication is offered and the worshipers leave the church in silence to await the joy of Easter morn. The variety of candle holders is symbolic of the individuality of the unique people Jesus called.

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL Mark 14:17-21

THE DESERTION Matthew 26:30-35

THE UNSHARED VIGIL Mark 14:32-34

THE ANGUISH Luke 22:39-44

SOLO *“There Is a Green Hill Far Away”* Luigi Zaninelli
~ Offered by **Suzanne Parmly** ~

THE DISCIPLES SLEEP Mark 14:37,42

THE HOUR HAS COME John 17:1-6

MAY THEY BE ONE John 17:15-22

THE BETRAYAL Mark 14:43-50

THE ARREST Mark 15:1-5

SOLO *“He Was Wounded”* Craig Courtney
~ Offered by **Suzanne Parmly** ~

THE CRUCIFIXION Mark 15:15-26

THE DEATH Mark 15: 33-38

THE TOMB John 19: 38-42

CHRIST CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHRIST CANDLE RELIGHTED

THE RECESSION of the Congregation in SILENCE.

If you wish to remain to pray in silence, you are invited to do so.