



**First Presbyterian Church
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Maundy Thursday
The Service of Holy Communion & Tenebrae
April 6, 2023 7:00pm**

The Service of Tenebrae is an adaptation of a Fourth Century service traditionally observed on Thursday of Holy Week. The Latin word, *Tenebrae*, means *shadows* or *darkness*. The service moves from light to darkness, the candles being extinguished to symbolize the denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus. The darkness also symbolizes the darkening of the world as Jesus, the light of the world, was leaving it. Finally, upon his death, the Christ candle is extinguished.

Silence is observed as we contemplate the shock, despair, gloom and sadness of that day and night long ago... and their meaning for our lives today. The service is phrased in words of scripture, which together with the music, speak to us of our Lord.

As each light is extinguished, let us be aware of the many ways we have denied Christ in our own lives, that the darkness of the cross might be made real for us today.

PREPARATION

Gathering Music “Wondrous Grace”
Welcome to Worship
Silent Prayers of Preparation

by Mary Ann Fritz

CONFESSION

***Call to Confession**

Jolene Schry

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. (*Romans 5:8*)

Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.

Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.

In your mercy, forgive us and cleanse us.

Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

PH 572 “Lord, Have Mercy”

A time of silence for personal confession

***Pardon**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of mercy, who forgives all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

***Responding to God’s Grace**

Having experienced God’s grace, let us live what we have come to experience and to believe.

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.1, 5, 6.)

Scripture Lesson Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Meditation “The Backstory Matters”

Hymn GTG 507 “Come to the Table of Grace”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Lord said to Moses: This shall be a day of remembrance for you, you shall celebrate it as a festival of the Lord. (*Exodus 12:14*)

Paul says to the Church: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:26*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

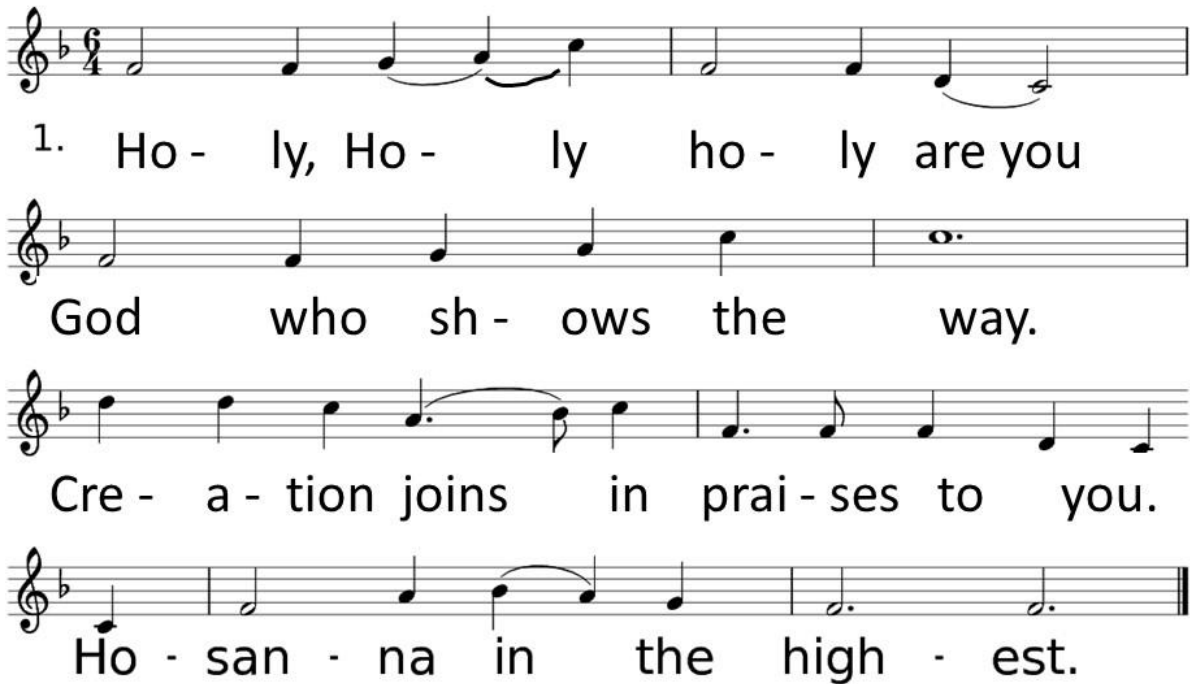
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You made us in your image, and freed us from the bonds of slavery. You claimed us as your people, and made covenant to be our God.

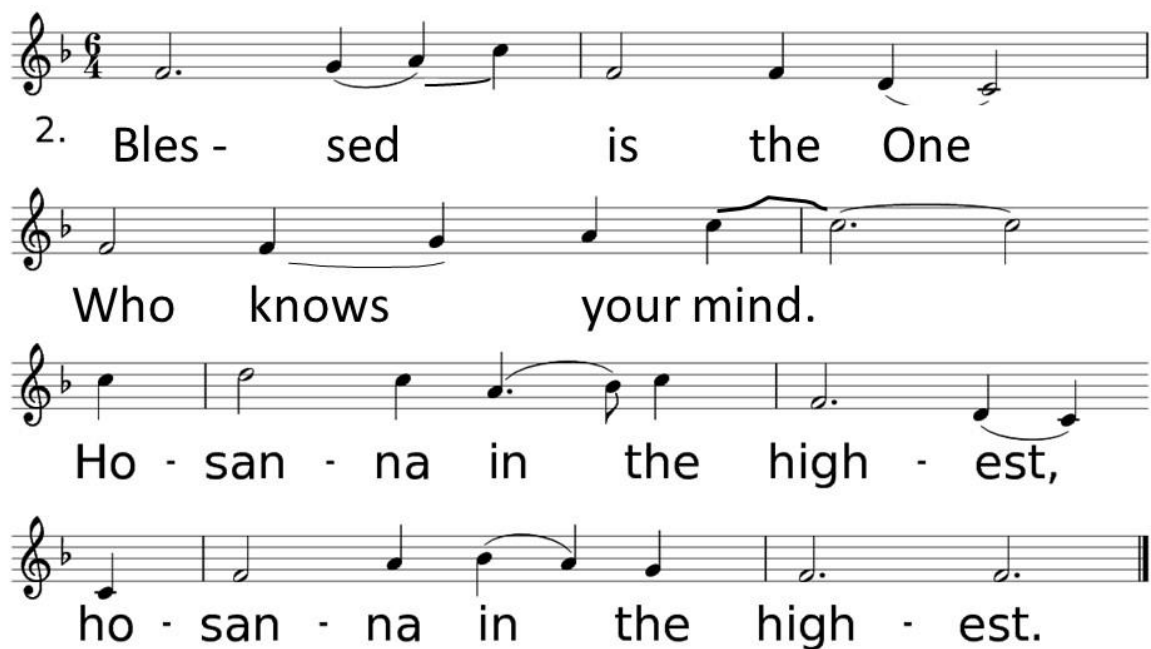
You fed us manna in the wilderness, and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey. When we forgot your covenant you spoke through prophets, calling us to turn again to your ways.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly ho - ly are you
God who sh - ows the way.
Cre - a - tion joins in prai - ses to you.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC (LAND OF REST): American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984; adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund; arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.



2. Bles - sed is the One
Who knows your mind.
Ho - san - na in the high - est,
ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In humility he descends from your heights, to kneel in obedience to love's commands.

He who is boundless takes on the bondage of our sin.

He who is free takes our place in death's prison.

He who is risen leads us to eternal life.

--Words of Institution--

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this cup from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Christ died Christ rose_ sho-wing us the
way to dea-th and life. Christ will come to
show the way to your heart.____

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place.

As this is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

--Prayers of the People--

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit to live as love commands. Bound to Christ, set us free for joyful obedience and glad service.

As Jesus gave his life for ours, help us to live our lives for others with humility and persistent courage. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when, with the redeemed of all the ages, we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

--Communion--

God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared in the body and blood of our Savior.

As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn PH 80 "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" vs. 1 & 2

(At this time the table is cleared, candles are placed on the table and the cross is draped as we prepare for the Service of Tenebrae)

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE SEVEN TIMES HE SPOKE

INTERCESSION

"Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing"

Scripture: Luke 23: 26-38

Nancy Hilbert

Time for silent meditation – The first candle is extinguished

ASSURANCE

"Today you will be with me in Paradise."

Scripture: Luke 23: 39-43

Eddie H.

***Hymn #93** "Ah, Holy Jesus"

Congregation

Time for silent meditation – The second candle is extinguished

CHARGE

"Mother, here is your son...Here is your mother."

Scripture: John 19: 25b-27

Emily Hayes

Time for silent meditation – The third candle is extinguished

DESPAIR

"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

Scripture: Mark 15: 33-34

Pedro Arellano

Hymn #97 "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (vs. 1 & 2)

Congregation

Time for silent meditation – The fourth candle is extinguished

NEED

"I thirst"

Scripture: John 19: 28-29

Neiciah P.

Time for silent meditation – The fifth candle is extinguished

ACCOMPLISHMENT

"It is finished"

Scripture: John 19: 30

Jolene Schry

***Hymn #85** "What Wondrous Love is This"

Congregation

Time for silent meditation – The sixth candle is extinguished

COMMITMENT

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"

Scripture: Luke 23: 44-49

Eddie H.

Time for silent meditation – The seventh candle is extinguished

TOLLING OF THE BELL

***Hymn #102** "Were You There?"

Congregation

(The Lantern is removed during the singing of the last verse.)

Acolyte	Oliver H.
Liturgists	Pedro Arellano, Emily Hayes, Eddie H., Nancy Hilbert, Neiciah P., Jolene Schry
Communion Servers	Gail Kamphuis, Mary Ellen McMeen
Draping the Cross	Bonnie Hughes
Ushers	Mary Bacon, Sue Baker, Dan Baker, Mike Warntjes
Bell Ringer	Joanne Marchionda
Cantor	Carol Wetzell
AV	Debby Cooley, John Neville

Easter Sunday Schedule

	9:00am	Worship
7:45 – 8:45 am	Easter Breakfast	10:15-11:15 am Easter Activities

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