



**First Presbyterian Church  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
Maundy Thursday  
The Service of Holy Communion & Tenebrae  
March 28, 2024 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. As we leave this time of worship in silence, we are called to leave our moments of denial and our experiences of death at the foot of the cross, that the crucified person of Jesus Christ might share the weight of these burdens, and we might be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into a new people, radiating with resurrection life.

### **PREPARATION**

**Gathering Music** “At Calvary/Near the Cross/At the Cross Medley”  
*arr. by Anthony Burger*

**Silent Prayers of Preparation**

**Welcome to Worship**

## **CONFESSION**

### **\*Call to Confession**

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.**

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

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.**

**Sung Response: PH 579 "Gloria Patri"**



## **The Words of Institution (1 Corinthians 11)**

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

#### **The Bread of Life & The Cup of Salvation**

*Please come forward to the table as the ushers invite you. We will be sharing the bread and the cup in small groups around the table, in a manner similar to which the disciples did with Jesus the night before he died. One server will walk around the table and place a piece of gluten free bread in your hands. As the second server walks around the table, you may either dip your bread into the common cup, or you may use the prepackaged communion sets. For those who prefer to stay in your pew, please alert the servers walking among the pews to come to you. Those who wish, may receive prayers for healing from Pastor Craig during this communion time.*

#### **Music during Communion**

Solo: "I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary"

*Carol Wetzel*

Congregation: Grey Book 170 "Give Thanks"

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **Handbells: "Were You There"**

*(During this piece, 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 (pew Bible p. 89)

*Emily Hayes*

*Time for silent meditation – The first candle is extinguished*

### **ASSURANCE**

*"Today you will be with me in Paradise."*

**Scripture:** Luke 23: 39-43 (pew Bible p. 89)

*Wendy Peachey*

**\*Hymn PH 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 (pew Bible p. 114)

*Jolene Schry*

*Time for silent meditation – The third candle is extinguished*

## **DESPAIR**

*“My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”*

**Scripture:** Mark 15: 33-34 (pew Bible 54)

*Mary Bacon*

**Hymn PH 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 (pew Bible p. 114)

*Kay Mullins*

*Time for silent meditation – The fifth candle is extinguished*

## **ACCOMPLISHMENT**

*“It is finished”*

**Scripture:** John 19: 30 (pew Bible p. 114)

*Joanne Marchionda*

**\*Hymn PH 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 (pew Bible p. 89)

*Nancy Hilbert*

*Time for silent meditation – The seventh candle is extinguished*

## **TOLLING OF THE BELL**

*The bell will toll 33 times, allowing us to remember the lifespan of our Lord.*

**\*Hymn #102** “Were You There?”

*Congregation*

*The Lantern is extinguished during the singing of the last verse,  
and remains dark as a reminder of the impending darkness of Good Friday.*

## **Benediction**

*Silent Recessional in Reverence*

*(The congregation will leave in silence following the Pastor.)*

Acolyte	Oliver H.
Liturgists	Emily Hayes, Joanne Marchionda, Kay Mullins, Jolene Schry, Wendy Peachey and Nancy Hilbert
Communion Servers	Mary Bacon, Cheryl Clarenbach, Mike Warntjes, Larry Johnson, Linda Neville, Carol Smith, Orville Kamphuis
Draping the Cross	Bonnie Hughes
Ushers	Henry Chang, Jim Dassow, Orv Kamphuis
Bell Ringer	Joanne Marchionda
Cantor	Carol Wetzel
AV	Debby Cooley, John Neville

### **Easter Sunday Schedule**

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

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