



**First Presbyterian Church
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Maundy Thursday
The Service of Holy Communion & Tenebrae
April 17, 2025, 7:00 PM**

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 "Oh How He Loves You and Me" *arr. by Mark Hayes*

Silent Prayers of Preparation

Welcome to Worship

Jolene S.

Beloved people of God, on this night, Jesus knelt down and washed the feet of his disciples, showing us how to love and serve one another. On this night, Jesus shared a holy meal with his disciples, offering a feast of abundant life and grace or all. On this night, Jesus surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever.

Opening Scripture (John 13:34)

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed disciples' feet.

Through the power of your Spirit, wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONFESSION

***Call to Confession**

Dick S.

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**

Dick S.

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**

Mike W.

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.*) *Mike W.*
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: GTG 581 "Glory Be to the Father"

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14 (NIV)

Mike W.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when

I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord —a lasting ordinance.

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2,12-19 (NIRV)

Confirmation Class

I love the Lord, because he heard my voice.

He heard my cry for his help.

Because he paid attention to me,

I will call out to him as long as I live.

The Lord has been so good to me!

How can I ever pay him back?

I will bring an offering of wine to the Lord

and thank him for saving me.

I will worship him.

In front of all the Lord’s people,

I will do what I promised him.

The Lord pays special attention

when his faithful people die.

Lord, I serve you.

I serve you just as my mother did.

You have set me free from the chains of my suffering.

Lord, I will sacrifice a thank offering to you.

I will worship you.

In front of all the Lord’s people,

I will do what I promised him.

I will keep my promise in the courtyards of the Lord’s temple.

I will keep my promise in Jerusalem itself.

Gospel Lesson: John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (NIV)

Jolene S.

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***The Apostle’s Creed (Unison)**

Ecumenical Version

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

** The word “catholic” means “relating to the church universal”*

Sung Response GTG 507 “Come to the Table of Grace”

(The Communion table is set during this song)

THE LORD’S SUPPER – HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them 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...

The Lord's Prayer

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.

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. 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. Musicians, cantors and audio/video people will communion first.

Music during Communion

On The Night He Was Arrested

GTG 510 "We Gather Here in Jesus' Name"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GTG 215 "What Wondrous Love is This" vs 1-3

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

Wondrous Love arr. by Fred Bock

(During this piece the seven candles are lit)

Luka K., acolyte

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 (The Message) (pew Bible p. 89)

Time for silent meditation – The first candle is extinguished

ASSURANCE

“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”

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

***Hymn GTG 218** “Ah, Holy Jesus” (vs. 1-3)

Congregation

Time for silent meditation – The second candle is extinguished

CHARGE

“Mother, here is your son...Here is your mother.”

Scripture: John 19: 25-27 (The Message) (pew Bible p. 114)

Time for silent meditation – The third candle is extinguished

DESPAIR

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

Scripture: Mark 15: 33-34 (NASB1995) (pew Bible 54)

***Hymn GTG 221** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Congregation

Time for silent meditation – The fourth candle is extinguished

NEED

“I thirst”

Scripture: John 19: 28-29 (NASB1995) (pew Bible p. 114)

Time for silent meditation – The fifth candle is extinguished

ACCOMPLISHMENT

"It is finished"

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

Hymn GTG 220 "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (vs. 1,3)

Congregation

Time for silent meditation – The sixth candle is extinguished

COMMITMENT

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"

Scripture: Luke 23: 44-49 (PHILLIPS) (pew Bible p. 89)

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 GTG 228** "Were You There?" vs. 1-3 & 5

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.*

(The congregation will leave in silence)

Acolyte	Lorelei C., Friede K., Luka K., Mason L.
Liturgists	Lorelei C., Friede K., Mason L., Jolene S., Dick S., Mike W.
Communion Server	Mike W.
Draping the Cross	Bonnie H.
Candles and Lantern	Clarenbach Family
Ushers	Debby L., Jim D., Emily H., Michael P.
Cantor	Carol W., Joanne M., Katy J., Phyllis M., Kim M., Kay M.
AV	Deb C., John N.
Nursery	Andy L.

Easter Sunday Schedule

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

Voice	920.922.0425
Email	fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org
Website	www.fdlpresbyterian.org
Facebook	First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac
Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin	pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org
Jennifer Zander	jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org
Kris Bartelt	kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org
Mary Robotka	mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org