

**Maundy Thursday / Tenebrae Service**  
**Service of Holy Communion**  
**March 28, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**

*On the night Jesus last gathered with his disciples, he took off his robe, took a towel, knelt down, and washed their feet; thus commanding them to love one another. During this service of worship, we remember Jesus' instruction to love one another through the ancient practices of hand-washing and anointing, as well as through the Lords' Supper.*

*The word Tenebrae is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story: the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day. At the end of each reading a light will be extinguished, until all appears dark. And yet, the light of Christ will remain.*

**PRELUDE**

*The Lord's Supper  
In the Shadow of the Cross*

*Michael Shea  
David Paxton*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

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

**OPENING SENTENCES**

People of God, this is the day when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash his disciples' feet; showing us how to love and serve one another.

This is the day when Christ, the true bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his friends; offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would torture and kill him. And yet, the grave could not hold him; his rising to new life has set us free from sin and death forever.

*Let us pray:*

O God, your love is embodied in Jesus who, on the night of his betrayal, washed the feet of his friends. Cleanse us, also, from any stain of sin; so that we might not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and forever praise him as Christ and Lord. **AMEN.**

**OPENING SONG #202**

*An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare  
(verse 1)*

*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.***

*(verse 2)*

***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.***

(verse 3)

**And after supper he washed their feet, for service, too, is sacrament. In Christ our joy shall be made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

(verse 4)

**No end there is! We depart in peace. He loves beyond our utter-most: in every room in our Father's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.**

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## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

L: The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. 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:

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we have failed to follow your will. In Jesus, you come to us in mercy, but we will not bind ourselves to you: 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 and cleanse us. Lead us to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

*(Silence is kept)*

## **CONGREGATION SINGS #695**

*Change My Heart, O God*                      *Change My Heart*  
**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart,**  
**O God; may I be like you. You are the Potter; I am the clay.**  
**Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God;**  
**make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

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## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## **INVITATION FOR WASHING AND ANOINTING**

*During the singing of our next hymn, you are invited to come forward, if you so choose, to take part in the rituals of hand washing and anointing; remembrances of Christ's great love for us and of the humble service to which we are called as Christ's disciples.*

## **\*SONG OF REFLECTION #203**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

*Chereponi*

*(refrain)*

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

*(verse 1)*

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.**

*(refrain)*

\*Please stand as you are able.

*(verse 2)*

***Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race; neighbors are near us and far away.***

*(refrain)*

*(verse 3)*

***These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love; all these are neighbors to us and you.***

*(refrain)*

*(verse 4)*

***Loving puts us on our knees; willing to wash others' feet; this is the way we should live like you.***

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## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

**God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Wash Their Feet*

*Pepper Choplin*

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*I Corinthians 11:23-34*

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. <sup>27</sup> Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For all who eat and drink without discerning the body eat and drink judgment against themselves. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. <sup>33</sup> So

then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. <sup>34</sup> If you are hungry, eat at home, so that when you come together, it will not be for your condemnation. About the other things I will give instructions when I come.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Liberating and redeeming God, we give thanks that you have and continue to hear the cries of your people. Therefore, we call upon your name, saying: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you delivered our ancestors from bondage and led them to a land of promise and plenty, liberate all who experience captivity or oppression and bring them to a place of abundant life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord stooped down to wash his disciples' feet, teach us to love and serve our neighbors with Christ-like compassion and humility. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Christ the Lord has offered us a feast of grace in his body and blood, help us to share with all who hunger the gifts that we have received from you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, redeemer and sustainer, we give thanks that you have heard our cry. Continue to lead us from death to life eternal and allow our lives to be a sign of your saving love; through Christ our Lord; who taught us to pray, saying:

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. O taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who find refuge in God."

#### **SONG OF PREPARATION #519**

*You Are My Strength When I Am Weak*

*Jernigan*

***You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!***

By Dennis L. Jernigan / ©1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. (admin. PraiseCharts.com) / CCL #11043756

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**L:** O give thanks to the Lord who is good;

**P:** **Whose steadfast love endures forever.**

**L:** Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things. You made us in your image to live in the covenant of your everlasting love. You carried your people from slavery to freedom, and delivered us from death into life. Thank you, Jesus, our Passover Lamb, who offered his life for us, and gave us the

commandment to love one another. We bless you, O God, for you bless our Lord's Supper. We thank you for Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life, who on the night he was betrayed took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his followers, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body which is for you."

**P: Blessed are you, O God, for yours is the power, now and forever.**

L: We thank you for Jesus, who took the cup, saying, "This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you. When you drink it, remember me."

**P: Blessed are you, O God, for yours is the glory, now and forever.**

L: Send your Holy Spirit to bless these offerings and renew us in Christ. Perfect in us the love that casts out fear and give all who share in this communion the fullness of your Spirit for the forgiveness of sin, resurrection from the grave, and new life in your realm, which has no end.

**P: Blessed are you, O God, for yours is the kingdom, now and forever.**

L: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

**P: Hosanna! Come, Lord Jesus.**

L: Blessed are you, O God, for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. **AMEN.**

### **SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the table, for all is ready.

### **UNISON PRAYER AFTER 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. Amen.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*On the Willows*

*Stephen Schwartz*

*Soloists: Marilyn Rodenhausen & Nancy Sullivan*

### **SEVEN LAST WORDS**

*A candle will be extinguished following each reading:*

*Luke 23:33-34*

*Luke 23:39-43*

*John 19:26-27*

*Mark 15:33-34*

*John 19:28*

*John 19:29-30*

*Luke 23:46*

*Wondrous Love*

***What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!***

***To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!***

*After the Christ candle is taken out, you are free to depart when ready. Please maintain silence until after you have exited the sanctuary.*

\*Please stand as you are able.