

A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Holy Week 2020

PRAYER *

Holy God, we thank you that you receive us not according to our failing goodness, but according to your overflowing grace. You receive us as we are. You show us what we can be. You have come to us in Jesus Christ to share our common lot and reconcile us to yourself. Sweep over us with your Spirit, change us by your love, that we may sing with joy before you, and live to your glory in the world. **AMEN.**

GREETING *

L: God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

L: And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,

P: And we loved darkness rather than light.

HYMN *

“The Apple Tree”

MAUNDY THURSDAY

See the next page of the bulletin.

PRAYER

Almighty God, graciously behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

GOOD FRIDAY

See the next page of the bulletin.

DISMISSAL *

Go in peace. May Jesus Christ,
who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross,
keep you and strengthen you this night and for ever. **AMEN.**

GOING FORTH *

All depart in silence.

MAUNDY THURSDAY CONFESSION AND PARDON

My sisters and brothers, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

Most merciful God, we your Church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray; and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. AMEN.

JOHN 13:1-17

CEREMONIAL WASHING

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

BEING IN COMMUNITY/THE LOVE FEAST

CALL TO GOOD FRIDAY

L: We gather tonight in the shadow of the cross.

P: Evil abounds. Jesus goes forth to suffer and die.

L: How we tremble with fear!

P: How we weep.

L: Why have we forsaken Him?

P: Why have we betrayed and run from his Passion?

L: Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Christ, have mercy upon us.

READING: PORTIONS OF PSALM 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

HYMN

"Beautiful, Scandalous, Night"

PRAYER

Lord, we come before you in the approaching darkness of our souls. We have traveled this Lenten journey, overcoming and conquering barriers that have kept us from serving you. We gathered at the gates of joy on Palm Sunday, and feasted at the Lord's Table Thursday. But today is a different story. We witness the arrest and trial of the Innocent Savior. We watch as he is moved brutally from place to place, to be judged by people who have hardened their hearts against you. The sorrow that we feel lies heavy upon us. Lift us, Lord. Comfort us. Help us get through this time of darkness. **AMEN.**

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

The Shadow of Betrayal

Reading Matthew 26:20-25 - Response *Ah, Holy Jesus*

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit and Arrest

Reading Matthew 26:36-50 - Response *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Go to dark Gethsemane
Ye that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

See him at the judgment hall,
Beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of Christ to bear the cross.

The Shadow of Denial

Reading Matthew 26:69-75 - Response "Judas, Peter" Poem by Luci Shaw

Judas, Peter

because we are all
betrayers, taking
silver and eating
body and blood and asking
(guilty) is it I and hearing
him say yes
it would be simple for us all
to rush out
and hang ourselves

but if we find grace
to cry and wait
after the voice of morning
has crowed in our ears
clearly enough
to break our hearts
he will be there
to ask us each again
do you love me

The Shadow of Accusation

Reading Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29 - Response *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
which once was bright as morn!

What thou, my Lord, has suffered
was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
look on me with thy favor,
vouchsafe to me thy grace.

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation

Reading Matthew 27:31-43 - Song *Watch The Lamb*

The Shadow of Death

Reading Matthew 27:45-54 - Response *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
UMH #298 (verses 1-3)

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Burial

Reading Matthew 27:57-60 - Response *Were You There?*

UMH #288 (verses 1-3)

Silent Meditation

*Hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (verse 4 only)

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

The people leave in silence. Darkness has fallen.

THE APPLE TREE

I loved you like the apple tree that blossoms in my sight.
And I loved you like the warm spring rains that fall on
earth at night.
I loved you like the eagle who teaches her young to fly.
I loved you freely, but in return, I was crucified.

You ask of God and I tell you, God is just like me. You
speak of heavy burdens, and I promise to make you free.
You say "What is truth?" and I answer, "I'm the light, the
truth, the way." Pilate washed his hands of me, will you
just walk away?

I loved you like the apple tree that blossoms in my sight.
And I loved you like the warm spring rains that fall on
earth at night.
I loved you like the eagle who teaches her young to fly.
I loved you freely, but in return, I was crucified.

BEAUTIFUL, SCANDALOUS, NIGHT

Go on up to the mountain of mercy
To the crimson perpetual tide
Kneel down on the shore
Be thirsty no more
Go under and be purified

Follow Christ to the holy mountain
Sinner sorry and wrecked by the fall
Cleanse your heart and your soul
In the fountain that flowed
For you and for me and for all

At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree
On that beautiful scandalous night you and me
Were atoned by His blood and forever washed white
On that beautiful, scandalous night

On the hillside, you will be delivered
At the foot of the cross justified
And Your spirit restored
By the river that poured
From our blessed Savior's side

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

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.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

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.

WERE YOU THERE?

Were you there when they crucified my lord?
Were you there when they crucified my lord?
Oh . . .
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? . . .

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

THE LOVE FEAST

GREETING Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we have all come to this place frail and broken. In a world of violence, hate, greed, and isolation, in a church searching to find the way forward, we look for healing through this restorative service of old. It is in this Agape Feast where adversaries become friends, friends become neighbors, and the Christian family embraces all. Let us join with each other and share the blessings of food and water, just as the first Christians did in ancient times.

The history of the feast, as a celebration born simply out of love, generosity, and fellowship is beautiful. At its most basic, the love feast is an experience of warmth and sharing, a commemoration of the early church. At its most symbolic, the love feast is a means of God's grace that is experienced in the fellowship with each other and with God. But the simplest explanation of the love feast, to which one can respond when asked, is that it is a way to remember Christ's presence on earth, and to celebrate with gratitude the spirit of God's love.

OPENING PRAYER We thank you, O God, for the life and knowledge which you have revealed through Jesus, your child and our brother. To you be glory forever. As the piece of bread was scattered over the hills and then brought together and made one, so, let your church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. For yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever. AMEN.

THE AGAPE FEAST Here before us, you will find some water and bread. It is important to know that this feast is not a Eucharistic feast, but one of love and fellowship. Let us commemorate our unity through Christ, and feast on the spirit of love who is Christ.