Maundy Thursday
A Tenebrae Service of Word and Sacrament
April 14 – 7:30 PM

The Approach to God

The Prelude: “Élégie” Gabriel Fauré
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Hal H. Hopson

The Chiming of the Hour

The Silent Processional

*The Litany
Leader: The light has come into the world, and the world loved the darkness rather than the light.
People: God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 177:1,2,4
“Oh, to See the Dawn”

The Service of Communion

The Welcome

The Anthem: “Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs” Karl Heinrich Graun
Surely, surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

The Sacrament of Communion

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right for us to give thanks and praise.
With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us. Even when we turned away from you, you turned your face toward us.
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his suffering and death opened to us the way of everlasting life.

We praise you that you not only shared the darkness and confusion of life, you overcame it.
The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:
Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

The Prayer of Consecration
Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying:

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. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:
Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

The Prayer of Consecration
Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying:

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. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 for the Bread
Anthem: “Kyrie Eleison” Larry Visser
Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.
(Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.)

The Words of Institution for the Wine
Anthem: “Lamb of God” arr. F. Melius Christiansen
Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer, patient still and lowly, thy self to scorn didst offer; our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken: Have mercy on us, O Jesu!

The Meditation: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

The Service of Shadows

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit

The Anthem: “The Sorrows Thou Art Bearing” harm J. S. Bach
The sorrows thou art bearing, with none their burden sharing, on me they ought to fall. The torture thou art feeling, thy patient love revealing, ‘tis I that should endure it all.

The Shadow of Arrest

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:21-24, 29-32
The Anthem: “O Sacred Head, Surrounded” harm. J. S. Bach
O sacred head, surrounded by crown of piercing thorn! O bleeding head, so wounded, reviled, and put to scorn! Death’s pallid hue comes o’er thee, the glow of life decays, yet angel hosts adore thee, and tremble as they gaze.

The Shadow of Crucifixion

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:1:21-24, 29-32
The Hymn: “What Wondrous Love Is This”

The Shadow of Death

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:33-37
The Christ Candle Is Removed

The Hymn: “Man of Sorrows – What a Name”

The Shadow of Burial

The Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:27-31
The Solo: “Were You There?”
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

The Time of Silent Reflection

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 161:1,2
“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

The Shadow of Denial

The Scripture Reading: Luke 22:54-62
The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 172:1,2
“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended”

The Shadow of Condemnation

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:1:15
The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 170:1,2
“Man of Sorrows – What a Name”

The Shadow of Mockery

The Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:27-31
The Anthem: “O Sacred Head, Surrounded” harm. J. S. Bach
O sacred head, surrounded by crown of piercing thorn! O bleeding head, so wounded, reviled, and put to scorn! Death’s pallid hue comes o’er thee, the glow of life decays, yet angel hosts adore thee, and tremble as they gaze.

The Shadow of Crucifixion

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:21-24, 29-32
The Hymn: “What Wondrous Love Is This”

The Shadow of Death

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:33-37
The Christ Candle Is Removed

The Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:57-61
The Solo: “Were You There?”
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.

The Time of Silent Reflection
The Anthem:

“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?

*All:*

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. (Choir: Amen.)

*The Dismissal*

Leader: May Jesus Christ, who for our sakes became obedient
unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen
you.

People: Amen.

*The Silent Recessional*

*The People Leave in Silence*

Tonight’s Service is chronological. We will walk beside Jesus as he
takes the journey from the gentle light of the Thursday Passover table
down into the deep darkness of Friday and the cross. For that reason,
our communion will come at the beginning of the service and only
after sitting at the table with Jesus will we head out to Gethsemane, to
the Sanhedrin, to Pilate’s judgment hall, and then finally to Golgotha
and the cross. As we journey, we will experience the darkness
associated with a Tenebrae service.

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been
practiced by the Church since the fourth century. Originally Tenebrae
was held in monasteries on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of
Holy Week. It was part of the matins and lauds (daily Scripture-
reading and prayer services) which began at two o’clock in the
morning. Later, to allow town folk to participate in these services, the
monasteries scheduled the Tenebrae service during the afternoon or
evening before each of these holy days.

The Tenebrae service is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s sufferings
using readings, candles, and music. After each Scripture reading, a
single candle is extinguished followed by an anthem or hymn. As the
darkness increases, the final white candle—the Christ candle—is
removed from the sanctuary, symbolizing Christ’s death and burial.
Through Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the Christ candle will
remain in the narthex, symbolizing Jesus’ separation from his
disciples. The candle will be restored at the beginning of our Easter
service.

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