

Maundy Thursday

A Tenebrae Service of Word and Sacrament

April 17, 2025 – 7:30 PM

The Approach to God

The Prelude: “Elegy” Gabriel Fauré
“Were You There?” arr. Larry Visser

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”
All who wish are invited to sing the descant on v. 4

The Welcome

The Service 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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Passing of the Bread
During the passing of the bread, the congregation sings:
Lift Up Your Hearts 614
“Come, You Disconsolate”

The Passing of the Wine
During the passing of the wine, the choir sings:
“It is a Thing Most Wonderful” Bob Chilcott
It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be, that God’s own Son should come from heaven and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true: he chose a poor and humble lot, and wept and toiled and mourned and died, for love of those who loved him not.

I sometimes think about the cross, and shut my eyes, and try to see the cruel nails and crown of thorns, and Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see him die, I should but see a little part of that great love, which like a fire, is always burning in his heart.

The Meditation: “SURELY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD”

The Service of Shadows

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit

The Scripture Reading: Luke 22:39-46

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

The Shadow of Arrest

The Scripture Reading: Luke 22:47-53

The Anthem: “Crucifixus” Antonio Lotti
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est.

Translation:
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.

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 Instrumental Reflection: “What Wondrous Love Is This?”

The Shadow of Mockery

The Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

The Hymn: Worship & Rejoice 281
“Lamb of God”

The Shadow of Crucifixion

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:21-24, 29-32

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 168
“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

The Shadow of Death

The Scripture Reading: Mark 15:33-37

The Christ Candle Is Removed

The Shadow of Burial

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” Gilbert M. Martin
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?

**Please stand and join in singing:*
**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*

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Chad Boorsma, Rev. Kristy Manion, Rev. Stan Kruis, Rachel Thorne – liturgists
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director
Calin Muresan – cellist
Perrin Rynders – percussionist
Jason Reiffer – vocal soloist
Joellah Bouwman, Norah Hollenbach, Polly Slotsema – acolytes
Joel Bouwman – Christ Candle bearer
Reynold Weidenaar (1915-1985) – cover art

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.

Maundy Thursday’s focus is on Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion. The black used in the paraments and banners symbolizes the darkness brought into the world by sin. It also symbolizes death. It’s not only Jesus’ death but our condemnation and that of the whole world under the burden of sin. The red symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ shed to redeem us and all of creation from sin.

Cover Art:
Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, artist and former member of LaGrave, Reynold Weidenaar (1915-1985) received honors as one of America's most distinguished artists. At age 27, he was the youngest artist to have a one-man exhibition at the Smithsonian. Weidenaar was one of seven living artists represented at the 100th anniversary of the Kennedy Gallery in New York in 1974. He is remembered for his oil and watercolor painting, sketches, and the unique art of fresco, represented in the LaGrave corridor adjacent to the narthex. A powerful symbol for the season of Lent, his sketch of the nail-scarred hand of the crucified Christ graces the cover of this bulletin.

