

*Maundy Thursday is named from the Latin word mandare, which means to command, as we honor Jesus' command to love one another (John 13:34). During this Tenebrae service we will experience increasing darkness or shadows, bringing to mind Jesus' crucifixion and the darkness that came over the whole land (Mark 15:33).*



## **The Service for Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae**

**April 17, 2025**

**5:00 p.m.**

Prelude

*Judy McElroy*

### **\*Call to Worship**

God is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

**God is the strength of my life: whom shall I dread?**

I am seeking your presence, O God.

**Do not abandon me to my foes.**

**There are people who hate me;  
there are things that control me;  
there are places that frighten me.**

Trust in God. Stand fast and have courage.

**Help us this night not to fall away.**

**Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,  
and give us the courage to withstand.**

**\*Hymn No. #202 – An Upper Room vs 1, 2**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

Let us pray this night.

**Spirit of Christ, be with us now. Guide us in the hour of trouble and awaken us when we sleep. Help us to face the cross upon which You died for our sakes. Let us see the humble and aching expression of Your human face. Let us also receive the mysterious truth of Your Divine presence. We are Your**

**disciples, and we gather around Your Table tonight. We seek to follow You even in our fear and weakness. Bless us by the nearness of Your body and spirit. Even as we falter, lead us through life and even until death, reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in You. Amen.**

*(Time of silent personal confession)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 2:13, 19

Through Christ Jesus, God has reconciled Godself to all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through Christ's blood, shed on the cross.

**We who were once far away have been brought near.**

We who were once strangers have become members of God's household.

**Thanks be to God, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**Hymn #215**

*What Wondrous Love is This? (vs. 1,3)*

## **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

*Invitation to the Table*

Come to this table  
To meet the living God,  
Love indescribable and beyond our imagining  
Yet closer than our own breathing.

**Come to this table  
To meet the risen Christ  
Flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone,  
God-with-us, embodied in our living.**

Come to this table  
To meet life-giving Spirit  
Interpreting our search for truth and justice,  
breathing into us receiving power.

**Come to find, to meet, to hold  
The living, loving God  
Made new for us in bread and cup.**

*Jan Berry – Bread of Tomorrow: Praying with the World's Poor*

*The Great Thanksgiving*

*Rev. Elizabeth Lyman*

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.**

Holy God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,  
with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name.

Your Son Jesus came as a servant  
to wash away our pride and feed us with the bread of life.  
We praise you for inviting us  
to serve one another without pride,  
to forgive one another as we have been forgiven,  
and to feast at his table as members of one household.

Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, most holy God,  
for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow.  
He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners.  
Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live.  
We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world.  
He is still the friend of sinners.

We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us,  
and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ  
that we may be for the world  
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Send us out in the power of the Spirit  
to live for others, as Christ lived for us,  
announcing his death for the sins of the world,  
and telling his resurrection to all people and nations.  
By your Spirit draw us together into one body  
and join us to Christ the Lord,  
that we may remain his glad and faithful people  
until we feast with him in glory.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
forever and ever. We pray as Jesus taught us...

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Words of Institution*

*Sharing the Meal*

*Music during Communion*

*Judy McElroy*

*Communion Prayer*

**Ever gracious God, we gather this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. We come with dry and thirsty spirits. In the breaking of the bread, remind us of our need and of Your sufficiency. With the cup of forgiveness, refresh us and make us whole. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to You in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of Your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.**

*Instrumental*

*Judy McElroy*

## The Tenebrae Service

### Reading 1: The Meal

*Alfonso Valenzuela*

Luke 22:14-18

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

**Because by Your Holy cross, You have redeemed the world.**

*(First pair of candles extinguished.)*

### Reading 2: The Garden

Matthew 26:36-41

*Alfonso Valenzuela* Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Jesus took with him, Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then Jesus said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then Jesus came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

**Because by Your Holy cross, You have redeemed the world.**

*(Second pair of candles extinguished.)*

### Anthem

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

### Reading 3: The Arrest

Mark 14:43-46

*Alfonso Valenzuela* Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when Judas came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

**Because by Your Holy cross, You have redeemed the world.**

*(Third pair of candles extinguished.)*

**Hymn No. 221**

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

**Reading 4: The Crucifixion**      **John 19:16-18, 23-31** *Rev Elizabeth Lyman*

So the crowd took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them....

Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves,

and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then Jesus said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took Mary into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So the soldiers put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

**Because by Your Holy cross, You have redeemed the world.**

*(Final candle extinguished.)*

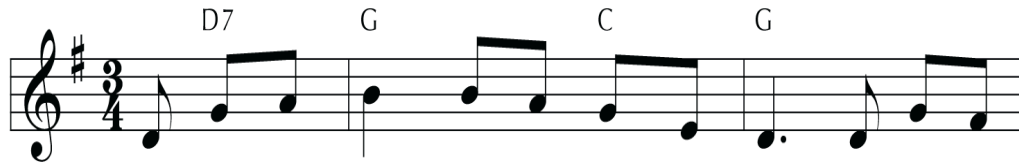
**Anthem**

Were You There ?

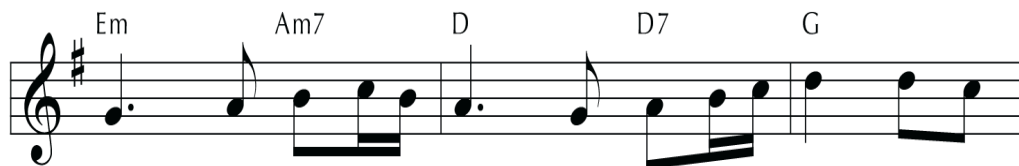
The Stripping of the Chancel – the ringing of the Ninth Hour  
*(The congregation leaves in silence, to return Easter morning  
for the celebration of the Resurrection.)*

# An Upper Room Did Our Lord 202

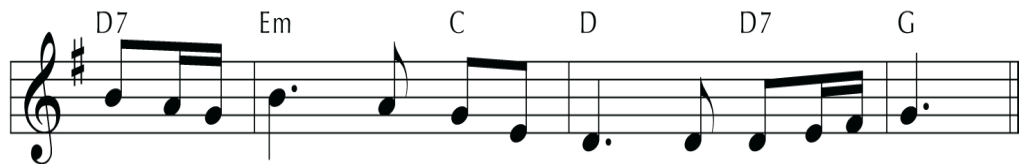
## Prepare



1 An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he  
2 A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his  
3 And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,  
4 No end there is! We de - part in peace. He loves be -



loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still  
bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may  
too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be  
yond our ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our



gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.  
bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.  
made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.  
Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text brings together the two New Testament traditions regarding Jesus' final evening with his disciples: the Synoptic account of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-29/Mark 14:22-25/Luke 22:14-20) and the Fourth Gospel's report of his washing the disciples' feet (John 13:3-17).

# What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What  
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to  
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of  
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous  
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my  
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."



# O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221

1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;  
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:  
 3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;  
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.