



HOLY TRINITY

Presbyterian Church

A NEW COMMANDMENT

Maundy Thursday begins the Three Days (or Triduum), remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

Historically, this was the traditional day in which those who had undergone a period of public penance under church discipline would be restored to full communion.

The opening service of the Triduum is not inherently mournful. The penitential acts of Maundy Thursday have celebratory aspects as well: restoration through the bold declaration of pardon; the act of footwashing connoting humility and intimacy; the celebration of the Lord's Supper embodying the mystery of Christ's enduring redemptive presence. Maundy Thursday's acts provide the paradox of a celebratively somber and solemnly celebrative service.

(Excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship - Geneva Press, 2003)



APRIL 2, 2026 7:00PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

† Please Stand as You Are Able

Prelude

Words of Welcome – Invitation to Foot Washing

Introit – Lenten Proclamation

Opening Prayer

† **Call to Worship**

LEADER: Followers of Jesus, our lives are filled with stress and distress, disquiet and fear.

PEOPLE: In the unrest and the fear we gather to worship God who delivers us.

LEADER: Like the disciples gathered with Jesus, we feel the turmoil of rumors and conspiracies, the grasping for power and security that threatens the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors.

PEOPLE: In the suffering and the tumult, we gather to call on God who delivers us.

LEADER: Facing an unknown future, the disciples gathered as we do today, to be surprised by Love, to share a meal, to remember their story, to receive a new story and a new meal.

PEOPLE: In the uncertainty of these days, we gather to share the story of God who delivers us.

LEADER: Followers of Jesus, come. Come to the basin and be washed. Come to the meal and be fed. Come to the table and be strengthened for the journey.

ALL: We gather together to remember the story of God's deliverance, that we may go from this place to heal the hurting, to tend the suffering, to love one another as Jesus loves us.

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)
5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

Prayer of Confession

(A moment of silence offers a “Holy Pause” to listen to the Spirit and confront oneself, allowing God to search our heart)

ALL: Merciful God, we come to this table as Your friends, yet we confess that our hearts are often far from You. Like the disciples, we promise our loyalty but fail in our weakness. We have wandered from Your ways; we have slept when we should have stayed awake. We have denied our Savior, kept silent when we should have spoken, and allowed darkness to take root in our hearts. Forgive us, O Lord. Strengthen us in our faith, that we may walk with You to the cross and beyond, into the hope of resurrection. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Gospel Reading *John 13:1-17, 31b-35 NKJV (Hiroshi Ajas)*

Choral Anthem – *Lamb of God, What Wonderous Love (Faure)*

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

pg. 35

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Tenebrae Service of Shadows

Scripture Readings | Stripping of the Church

John 11:45-53 (*Karen Armstrong*)

Luke 22:1-6 (*Coleman Whittenberg*)

Matthew 26:20-25 & John 13:30 (*Terri Miksch*)

Matthew 26:36-42 (*Randy Schavrien*)

Mark 14:43-50 (*Elizabeth Werner*)

Matthew 26:69-75 (*William Werner*)

Matthew 27:1-2 (*Teri Heinzman*)

Matthew 27:3-10 (*Diane Koksha*)

Matthew 27:11-14 (*Val Ajas*)

John 18:28-40 (*Steph Rudi*)

Luke 23:32-43 (*Pr. Chuck Cornelisse*)

Mark 15:33-39 (*Martha Platt*)

† **Closing Hymn** – *The Old Rugged Cross (not in hymnal)*

Dismissal in Silence & Darkness

FOOTWASHING

A powerful symbolic response to the Word, representing the way of humility and servanthood to which we are called by Christ, is the act of footwashing, practiced within the church since at least the fifth century.

What is startling about the footwashing story in John is the identity of the servant who washed others' feet — Jesus, God-with-us, the least likely person. Following the footwashing, Jesus took on himself the humiliation of the cross, the ultimate symbol of his selfless love for others. ...

In the priesthood of all believers (not hierarchies of power), all members of the body of Christ can “kneel” before each other and wash one another's feet as did our Lord and Savior himself — neighbor to neighbor, perhaps even stranger to stranger.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Though on this night we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples in the context of Passover, we are neither celebrating a Seder (“order of service”), nor reenacting the Last Supper, but sharing with our risen Lord a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. ...

The Eucharist is rooted not only in the Last Supper but also in Jesus' eating with sinners, and in his feeding the crowd with the loaves and fishes, and it foreshadows the meals after his resurrection. All together they constitute the multiple meanings of the Lord's Supper. To reduce the Lord's Supper to the Last Supper is to cut off the Sacrament from its eschatological significance (that is, as it relates to the unfolding of God's purpose and in the ultimate destiny of humankind and the world).

TENEBRAE TRADITION

The final act of this service is the evocative stripping of the worship space. The stark, bare, unadorned church now reflects Jesus' abandonment during the night in Gethsemane. The visual aspect of the transformed worship space gives people a dramatic depiction of Christ's desolation. The church remains in semidarkness, and all depart in silence, thus making the transition from the eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors. The church remains bare until the Easter Vigil when the process is reversed and the worship space is “dressed” again.

(Explanations Elements of Maundy Thursday Service: Excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship - Geneva Press, 2003)

NEW HERE? WELCOME!

Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning! We are glad you are here! We would love to give you a special welcome gift before you leave.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter holds a significant place in the life of our church, reflected in both the reverence and worship we share during services, as well as in the joy of breaking bread and enjoying fellowship at our Easter Breakfast! Join us next Sunday, April 5th, from 8:00 to 9:30 AM for a delightful holiday meal. We encourage members to contribute by bringing specific items based on the first letter of their last name:

- A-F: Breakfast Casserole
- G-L Fruit Tray
- M-R: Breakfast Breads / Muffins / Rolls
- S -Z: Finger Foods / Appetizers

EASTER FLOWER CROSS

On Easter Sunday we will participate in the “flowering of the Easter cross.” Everyone is invited to pick out a fresh flower from assortments located at the entrances to the Sanctuary, or you may bring flowers from your own garden.

LUNCH BREAK

Did you know that the men’s ministry and the women’s ministry meet for lunch each month? It’s a great time to catch up with old friends and make new ones!

- “Ladies Who Lunch” will be meeting on Monday, April 6th at 11:30 at Chesters on Pat Booker
 - the Men’s Lunch is on Monday, April 20th at noon at Longhorn Cafe.
- See you there!