

Tenebrae Service

(Service of Shadow)

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026

7 p.m.



Gathering

Greeting

Liturgist: And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and we loved darkness rather than light.

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

L: For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

All: Everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light. But all who do what is true come to the light. Alleluia.

*UMH No. 298

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBRUG

While the hymn is sung, disciples (readers) come forward and light candles and take their seats in the chancel area.

The Confession

Offered in Unison

Most gracious God, look with mercy upon your family gathered here from whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed and suffered death on the cross; strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of his salvation; through Him who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

TFWS No. 2275

“Kyrie”

NEW WORLD

The Pardon

Pastor: In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Offering of Our Time, Talents and Treasures

Offertory

Doxology – UMH No. 94 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Musical Offering

“Night of Tears, Night of Grace”
by Steven Aldridge

Chancel Choir

The Passion of Christ

based on the gospel of Matthew 26-27
New International Version, 1984

The church hears Jesus’ last words at his passion

The Shadow of Plot against Jesus Matthew 26:1-5

The first Candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Betrayal 1 Matthew 26:6-16

UMH No. 620

“One Bread, One Body”

ONE BREAD ONE BODY

stanza 1 only

The second is extinguished.

The Shadow of Betrayal 2 Matthew 26:17-29

UMH No. 290

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

REDHEAD

stanza 1 only

The third candle is extinguished and moved away.

The Shadow of an Unshared Vigil Matthew 26:30-46

UMH No. 289

“Ah Holy Jesus”

HERZLIBESTER JESU

stanza 1 only

The fourth and the fifth candle are extinguished.

The Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:47-56

UMH No. 289 "Ah Holy Jesus" HERZLIBESTER JESU
stanza 2 only
The sixth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Accusation 1 Matthew 26:57-68

UMH No. 288 "Were You There" WERE YOU THRER
stanza 1 only
The seventh and the eighth candle are extinguished.

The Shadow of Denial Matthew 26:69-75

UMH No. 288 "Were You There" WERE YOU THERE
stanzas 2 only
The ninth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Trials Mathew 27:1-10

UMH No. 286 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" PASSION CHORALE
Stanza 1 only
The tenth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Accusation 2 Matthew 27:11-27

UMH No. 286 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" PASSION CHORALE
stanza 2 only
The eleventh candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Crucifixion 1 Matthew 27:28-38

UMH No. 297 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ST. CHRISTOPHER
stanza 1 only
The twelfth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Crucifixion 2 Matthew 27:39-54

UMH No. 297 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ST. CHRISTOPHER
stanza 2 only
The thirteenth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of the Tomb Matthew 27:55-66

UMH No. 297 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ST. CHRISTOPHER
stanza 3 only

Christ candle is extinguished.
Christ's candle is shroud.
Loud sound heard.

Christ's candle is removed from sight symbolizing the death and entombment of the Light of the World; **a loud noise** is heard, to symbolize the earthquake, the rending of the temple veil, the cosmic impact in the history of these moments, and **a bell is tolled 33 times** – moments that will live forever in the hearts of believers.

Song of the Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:4-9

Dismissal with Blessing

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

The Silent Departure

All rise and leave the church in silence.

Special thanks to Florence Thomas, liturgist; Camille Bohannon, narrator; Mary Church, Dr. Kevin Connolly, Doug Dull, Rev. Dr. Ken Fell, Zam Haque, Henry Varfley; Chance Choir under Kathryn Herman; Dick Church, Christine Fattore & Fred Herman, Tech.

*We honor and celebrate your decision to be here. We hope to see you tomorrow on Good Friday evening at 7 p.m. to hear Jesus' seven reproaches to the church.
Join a parade at the seven stations at Covenant campus.*