

**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
AND ANCIENT ORDER OF TENEBRAE**

April 5, 2007

Eight O'clock PM

*“And when the hour came, Jesus sat at table,
and the apostles with Him.” —Luke 22:14*

THE SOLEMN PROCESSIONAL

with muffled drum

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, “Listen! I stand at the door and knock.

People: If you hear my voice and open the door,

Leader: I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”

People: Come, Lord, Jesus. The door is open and we are ready to receive you.

A READING: PSALM 22: 1-5, 22-27

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, You sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. Judge us with love, and lift the burden of our sins. We confess that we have failed to fulfill your will for us. We have withheld love, neglected justice, and turned away from truth. You have bound yourself to us, but we have been reluctant to bind ourselves to you.

We deceive ourselves, saying we have no sin; but we have been unwilling to forsake false gods and to serve you and you alone.

O God, have mercy upon us, weak and willful though we are. Lead us to your Table, and unite us to Christ, who is the Bread of life and the Vine from which we grow in grace. In His name we pray.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, hear the Good News! With the twelve we are invited to eat and drink at our Lord's Table.

People: From east and west, from north and south, shall his people come.

Pastor: Worshipping friends, having heard the Good News, let us declare:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen and amen.

THE OFFERING

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE OFFERTORY MUSIC *What Wondrous Love Is This* American Folk Hymn

Larry Morrison, soprano recorder

*THE COMMUNION HYMN 94

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

O WALY WALY

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

People: **We give thanks unto the Lord our God.**

Pastor: Together, let us ask God's blessing upon this meal.

People: **Bless, O God, this bread and cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we gather for this sacred mystery, that in these elements we may be reminded of the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for the sake of all sinners. In humble gratitude for the sacrifice of your Son, we pray that we might worthily receive these gifts, through the merit of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who taught us to pray...**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION *(Please hold the elements until all have been served.)*

*THE RESPONSE FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

People: **And all that is within me, bless His holy Name!**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

People: **We forget not all His benefits.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

The Minister and the Congregation:

Almighty and most gracious Father, who has given us this night to remember the Lord Jesus at the celebration of His Last Supper: grant that our ears may be closed to the voice of clamor and distraction; that our eyes, which have seen your great love, may also behold your blessed hope; that our tongues, which sing of your grace, may announce hope to the lost; that the feet which have walked in your courts may walk in the region of light; and that the souls of all who have now received your blessed sacrament may be restored to newness of life. In your name we pray: one God, world without end. Amen.

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

A Service of Darkness

The First Reading: Luke 23: 13–25, 33–34

The Choral Response: *"O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile"*

Silent Meditation

The Second Reading: Luke 23: 39–43

The Choral Response: *"Hear Us, Holy Jesus"*

Silent Meditation

The Third Reading: John 19: 25b–27a

The Choral Response: *"At the Cross, Her Station Keeping"*

Silent Meditation

The Fourth Reading: Matthew 27: 45–46
The Choral Response: “*Bound Upon the Accursed Tree*”
Silent Meditation

The Fifth Reading: John 19: 28–29
The Choral Response: “*Jesus, In Thy Thirst and Pain*”
Silent Meditation

The Sixth Reading: John 19: 30
The Choral Response: “*O Perfect Life of Love*”
Silent Meditation

The Seventh Reading: Luke 23: 46
The Choral Response: “*Behold the Lamb of God*”
Silent Meditation

THE FALLING OF DEEP DARKNESS

THE NAILING

THE PERIOD OF SILENCE

THE SILENT RECESSIONAL

(All worshippers are requested to leave the Sanctuary in silence.)

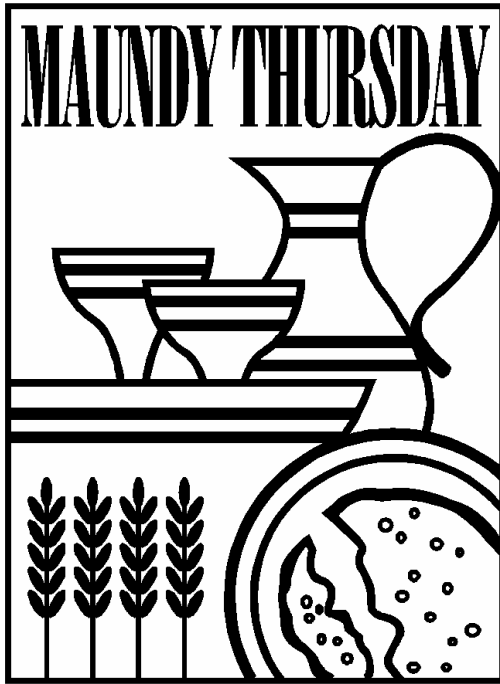
*Those who are able, please stand.

THE CHORAL RESPONSES are from *A Service of Darkness* by Dale Wood.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Beverly Antis and the Covenant Choir for their many hours of practice and for the powerful message of Christ’s passion proclaimed in song tonight. Thanks also to Larry Morrison and his volunteer helpers for their part in the service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – From the Latin *mandatum*, meaning “command.” On the occasion of his last Passover meal with the disciples, Jesus commanded his followers to share a meal of bread and wine in his memory. “Do this in remembrance of me.” (1 Corinthians 11:24) On this night, Jesus also gave a new commandment to his disciples, to “love one another.” The feast of Maundy Thursday solemnly commemorates the institution of the Eucharist. Those in the Reformed tradition believe that Holy Communion is more than just a memorial meal... that we meet the living Christ in this sacrament. Our practice does not hold that Christ is physically present in the bread and wine (juice), which remain unchanged, but that He is spiritually present in a powerful and mysterious way.

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE (darkness) – The gradual extinguishing of candles and Sanctuary lights during this liturgy will accentuate the Biblical narrative of Christ’s journey to the Cross. The service ends in silence as the narrative is arrested with Jesus’ death and his last words on the cross. Yet, the Christ Candle, even when temporarily shrouded, does not yield completely to the darkness. This candle, symbolizing Christ who is our Hope and Light, leads us from darkness to light, and from death to life.



**HOLY COMMUNION
AND
ANCIENT ORDER OF TENEBRAE**

**April 5, 2007
8:00 PM**

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Butler, Pennsylvania**

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