

Maundy Thursday
Service of the Word, Holy Communion, Tenebrae
by the Rev. Quentin Chin, adapted by Nancy Duncan

Notes:

1. *Worshippers, including the worship leaders, will be in different locations as this is a virtual service.*
2. *All worshippers should have a piece of bread and wine, juice or water for communion. They do not need a paten and chalice. They should also have a candle, preferably white, for Tenebrae.*
3. *Participants have unison responses, in **bold** type. They should say them out loud, but with their microphones **muted**, to avoid lag and distortion in compression*
4. *During communion, everyone will read aloud the Prayer to the Spirit (Epiclesis) along with the celebrant. They will also follow the celebrant's motions, extending hands over the bread and cup at their tables.*
5. *As this service will take place during Passover, the communion prayer follows the pattern of the Passover song, **Dayenu**. **Dayenu** is a song of rejoicing over God's generous blessings for the people of Israel: **Dayenu** means "it would have been enough". It is found in the Passover Haggadah.*
6. *The prayer that begins Tenebrae, the **Phos Hilaron**, is one of the earliest hymns of the church. It is traditionally used in early evening, at Vespers, or the Lighting of the Lamps, praise for Christ, the Light of the World.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GREETING

Beloved Ones, this is the beginning of our journey,
walking with Jesus to the cross.

We will remember with the bread and the cup his final meal with his friends.

We will remember that his friends left him alone in his hour of need.

As light fades into darkness, we will remember that our lives are both light and dark
and that darkness calls forth from us our deepest trust and hope.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: We come this night to begin our last steps to the cross.
We have walked, often sightless, on the rocky road with Jesus.
During this journey we have slipped and fallen. We have wanted to give up.
Our feet are sore. We are tired.
We ask God to help us on this last mile not to falter.
(silent reflection)

Holy God, your love for us overflows, but we have not loved you with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength.

We beseech you, O Holy One,

Many: *Out loud, but muted*

Have mercy on us.

One: Holy One, we fail to remember that we are inextricably bound one with each other. We beseech you, O Holy One.

Many: *muted*

Have mercy on us.

One: Holy One, we are stubborn and cling to our old ways.

We beseech you, O Holy One,

Many: *muted*

Have mercy on us.

One: Holy One, remind us that we live for you and not for ourselves or by ourselves.

We beseech you, O Holy One,

Many: *muted*

Have mercy on us.

One: Holy One, we have lost sight of our collective power we hold when we strive to work together towards a common purpose.

We beseech you, O Holy One,

Many: *muted*

Have mercy on us.

One: *(silence)* May the Holy One, our God, have mercy upon us and forgive us of our sins

through the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

READINGS

Hebrew Scripture - Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

NRSV adapted

Leader: I love the Lord, who has heard my voice and my supplications.

People: Because God has listened to me,
therefore I will call on the Holy One as long as I live.

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all this bounty to me?

People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of our God,
I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all the people.

Leader: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of the faithful ones.

People: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant,
the child of those who serve. You have loosed my bonds.

Leader: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

People: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: Praise the Lord!

Gospel Lesson

John, 13:1-17; 31b-35

Translation from An Inclusive Bible, © 2011 Priests for Equality

It was before the feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was. The devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus—knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God— rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, *(sound of water poured into a basin)* and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Rabbi, you're not going to wash my feet, are you?" Jesus answered, "You don't realize what I am doing right now, but later you'll understand." Peter replied, "You'll never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Then, Rabbi, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus said, "Any who have taken a bath are clean all over and only need to wash their feet—and you're clean, though not every one of you." For Jesus knew who was to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me "Teacher," and "Sovereign"—and rightly, for so I am. If I, then—your Teacher and Sovereign— have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

"The truth of the matter is, no subordinate is greater than the superior; no messenger outranks the sender. Once you know all these things, you'll be blessed if you put them into practice.

Jesus said, "Now is the Chosen One glorified and God is glorified as well. If God has been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. My

little children, I won't be with you much longer. You'll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you: where I going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

SILENCE

MUSIC WON'T YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsBCCz3Y7_w

HOMILY BY REV. NANCY DUNCAN

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you are to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

Jesus loved his disciples even when they fell asleep on him. Jesus loved his disciples even when they denied him.

Jesus loves us. And all we are called to do is to love one another as Christ loved us.

In this time and in all times, the only thing that matters is love. Love is stronger than death. Love is stronger than fear. Love is stronger than anger. Love is stronger than hate.

This is our time, God's time, to share God's love.

This is the time to discover new platforms, new methods, to share Christ's love with all people near and far.

We are one body.

The barriers of nation or race or religion are permeable.

We are one body.

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you are to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another." Amen.

MUSIC St. Olaf Choir - "What Wondrous Love" - Southern Harmony, arr. Robert Scholz

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsBCCz3Y7_w

Note: I (Nancy) have happy memories of walking to St. Olaf to study while a student at Carleton College. Sadly, I never attended one of their concerts but did enjoy exploring the campus.

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

muted And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

muted We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God

muted It is right to give God thanks and praise.

That God created this world with plants and living things for our nourishment,
and had not made a new covenant with Noah,

muted it would have been enough.

That God brought Israel out of Egypt, and had not dealt justly
with Egypt for its oppression,

it would have been enough.

That God provided all that was needed during Israel's forty years in the wilderness,
and had not provided manna and quail,

it would have been enough.

That God gave us the Law, and had not led Israel into
the land flowing with milk and honey,

it would have been enough.

That God returned Israel to Jerusalem after its exile in Babylon,
and had not rebuilt the Temple,

it would have been enough.

That God came to us as a baby named Jesus,
and had not healed the broken and the wounded,

it would have been enough.

That Jesus healed the broken and the wounded,
and had not challenged the authorities to embrace those
who lived in the shadows and at the margins,

it would have been enough.

That Jesus challenged the authorities to embrace those
who lived in the shadows and at the margins,

and had not died on a cross to rise again,
it would have been enough.

And yet, O God, you did this to remind us that life always overcomes death
and that out of death new life emerges.

For this O God, we are eternally grateful.

We join all the saints who have come before to say the words of the ancient hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God most high.

Blessed is One who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: On the night he was betrayed, the night we remember at this moment, Jesus sat at table with his disciples. He picked up the unleavened bread, blessed it, and broke it saying to them, "Take, eat. This is my body broken for you. As often as you of this, remember me."

Later he took a cup and after blessing it, he gave it to them saying, "Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured for all for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink of this, remember me."

By this bread and this cup we proclaim:

Many: *muted*

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT (*Epiclesis*)

Set your Holy Spirit, O God, upon this bread and this cup.

May they be enough.

Though we may be in separate places,

grant that by this bread and cup we will be one body in Christ

to support each other in this our time of trial

and to proclaim hope through our ministries of healing and grace.

We ask this with the prayer Jesus taught us saying:

LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE FEAST

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, for gathering us together
at this table in this moment in time.
Though separate, by your Holy Spirit and this bread and cup,
we are bound as one body in Christ.
We go forth from here strengthened in love
and committed to bear witness to hope that never dies.
May we tell the story of life that always overcomes death
through our words and deeds. Amen.

TENEBRAE (SERVICE OF SHADOWS)

READING: Phos Hilaron *(UCC Book of Worship, Page 210; other translations available)*

O Gracious Light,
Pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
And our eyes behold your vesper light,
We sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity.

You are worthy at all times
To be praised by happy voices,
O Christ of God, O giver of life,
And to be glorified through all the worlds.

TENEBRAE READINGS

1. **Matthew 26:20-25** Evelyn Clowes, Reader

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve;[a] 21 and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23 He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." 25 Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

2. Matthew 26: 30-35 Claire Riser, Reader

³⁰Then, after singing the Hallel, they walked out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹Jesus then said to them, "Tonight you will all fall away because of me, for scripture says, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'" ³²But after I have been raised, I will go to Galilee ahead of you." ³³Peter responded, "Though all may fall away because of you, I never will!" ³⁴Jesus replied, "The truth is, before the cock crows tonight, you will deny me three times." ³⁵Peter said, "Even if I must die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

3. Luke 22:39-44 Jim Gussen, Reader

⁹ He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." [a] ⁴¹ Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." [[⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴ In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] [b]

4. Mark 14:32-42 Rebecca Brackett, Reader

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, "Abba,[a] Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; [b] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

5. Mark 14:43-50 Catherine Anderson, Reader

⁴³ Immediately, while he 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. ⁴⁴ 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." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went

up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. 47 But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48 Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? 49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." 50 All of them deserted him and fled.

Final Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-9 Nancy Duncan, Reader

Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,

struck down by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,

and by his bruises we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have all turned to our own way,

and the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

8 By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people.

9 They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb[a] with the rich,[b]

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

DISMISSAL

"Go in Peace. Stay awake if you can. And if or when you fall asleep, remember that you are beloved. God is with you in the darkness. Amen.