

# *United Methodist Church at Absecon*



All are Welcome!

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors!*

2023 Holy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae

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Pastor: Rev. David L. Ledford, III      Organist: Priscilla Cunningham  
.....

*This service will begin at 7 PM*

## **GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

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

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**P: And also with you**

L: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**P: Christ has prepared a feast of love.**

L: Come all who hunger. Come all who thirst.

**ALL: We come, like the disciples, confused, anxious and with our hearts and minds on the events to come.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will. We have broken your law, rebelled against your love and ignored the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray, free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Confession and Pardon

## **HOLY COMMUNION AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

Christ has prepared a feast of love and forgiveness for you. Eat this bread, and drink this fruit of the vine. Jesus sacrificed himself for you at this table. Do this in remembrance of him.

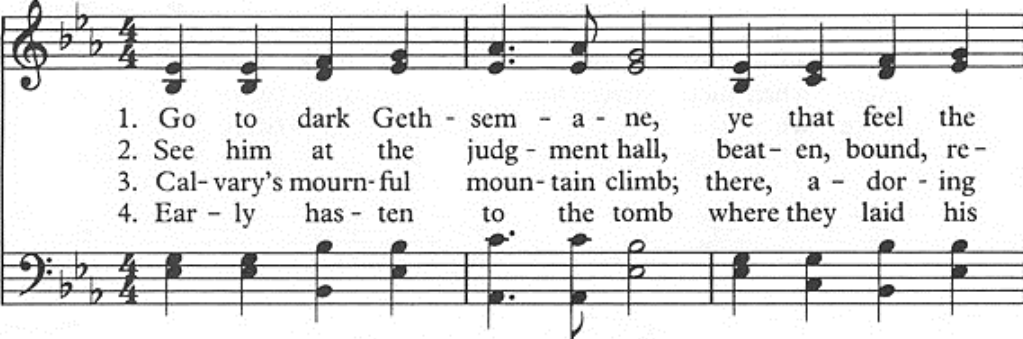
*The next part of the service will begin at 7:15 PM.  
Please close your browser window and then reopen it in  
order to view the second part of tonight's service. (This  
will refresh your browser.)*

## **TENEBRAE SERVICE**

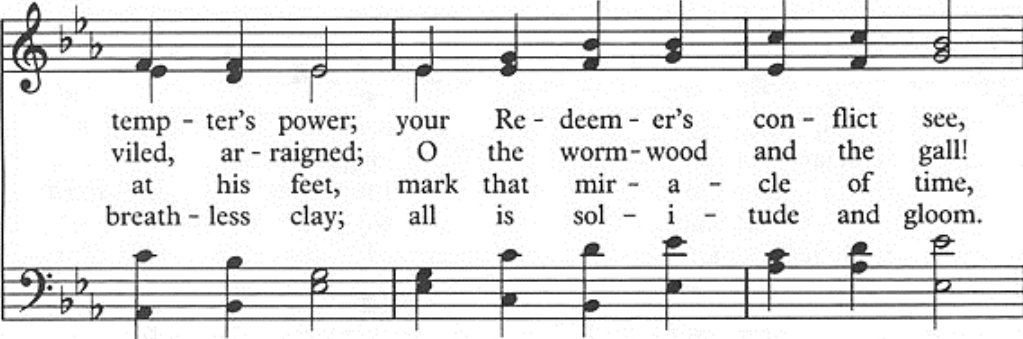
Just as the disciples and Jesus got up from the communion table on Thursday night, so do we. They were entering into a time of darkness. So we, too, enter into a time of darkness. Tenebrae is a Latin word that means darkness. We can only truly appreciate resurrection if we have been to the cross.

The Tenebrae service will take place in the sanctuary. The events of Thursday night and Friday morning will be acted out in front of us. After each stage, the sanctuary will get darker until, finally, Christ takes his last breath and all lights are off. There will be darkness, sudden loud noises and a lot of emotion. Then, we leave in dark silence until the tomb is empty.

“Go the Dark Gethsemane”



1. Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, ye that feel the  
2. See him at the judg - ment hall, beat - en, bound, re -  
3. Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing  
4. Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



temp - ter's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
viled, ar - raigned; O the worm - wood and the gall!  
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his  
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He

griefs a - way; learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.  
 hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.  
 meets our eyes; Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

"Were You There" (verses 1-4)

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my  
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the  
 3. Were you there when they pierced him in the  
 4. Were you there when the sun re - fused to  
 5. Were you there when they laid him in the

(were you there)  
 Lord? Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my  
 tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the  
 side? Were you there when they pierced him in the  
 shine? Were you there when the sun refused to  
 tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the

(were you there)  
 Lord?  
 tree?  
 side? Oh! sometimes it  
 shine?  
 tomb?  
 (were you there)

caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.

(were you there)

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

(were you there)

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

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?

how pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn!  
 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,

How does that vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn!  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, vouch - safe to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

**STRIPPING THE ALTAR**

You are now invited to help strip the altar. As you do, remember that Jesus' life, his dignity and his clothes were stripped away from him. Remember that life with Christ was being stripped away from the disciples. So now, with heavy hearts, we strip the altar. But there is good news and hope. Jesus is making all things new. But first, the things of old must be stripped away.

**GOING FORTH**

You may sit quietly for as long as you wish once the altar is stripped. There certainly is much to pray about.



**EASTER SUNDAY**

- 6:30 AM: Community Sunrise Service at Heritage Park Gazebo
- 9:00 AM: Contemporary Service
- 9:45 AM: Sunday School
- 11:00 AM: Traditional Service