

There will be a loud noise after the Christ candle, the final light, has been extinguished and the sanctuary is in darkness. The room will remain in darkness for a time, then when the lights come back on, the service is over and the room will be empty and quiet.

Maundy Thursday

“Maundy” comes from the Latin word *Mandatum* which is translated “commandment.” After Jesus washed the disciple’s feet and they share the Passover meal, Judas leaves the group to betray Jesus to the authorities. Jesus then shares with the disciples a new commandment, to not just love each other; our neighbors, our enemies, but to love others the way HE loves us. By loving this way, the world will know by this amazing love that we are followers of Jesus.

Tenebrae Service

The service of *Tenebrae*, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, *Tenebrae* later came to be an important part of the worship of the medieval common folk during Holy Week. Today we join Christians of many generations and from around the world using the liturgy of *Tenebrae*. *Tenebrae* is prolonged meditation on Christ’s sufferings. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays His pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggest the drama of this momentous day.

We ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering through mounting darkness and end with the Scripture of his death.

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**6:40 am Sunrise Service - Graveyard
Breakfast following sunrise service
9:00 am Worship - Easter Service
Minister: Rev. Ardy Skidmore**

LOCUST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



How beautiful, O Lord, are the feet that
proclaim the gospel.
Make us ready to follow Christ:
in word and action,
in service and love,
so that all the world may know the one we love
and serve:
Jesus Christ the Lord.

John 13:1-17, 31b-35; Isaiah 52:7

April 2, 2026

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Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)

Call to Worship:

ONE: God is Light, in Whom there is no darkness at all.

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

***Hymn: #93 "Ah, Holy Jesus"**
1 & 2 verse only

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession: Hear us oh gracious and merciful Lord. We turn to fear with each new day instead of turning to you. We walk in uncertainty rather than resting in your promises of a future, and hope. We look for answers instead of looking to our Savior. We know it is only through Christ that weight is lifted, that we are forgiven. As your light was extinguished, you then provided a new light, a new life for all believers. Be our light in these dark days. Be our light through the long night of uncertainty and pain. Lord we can never express our gratitude enough for what you did on the cross, for us sinners. Forgive us we pray, revive us and give us new life in you. Be our light, our life, our truth and our hope. Hear the cries of our heart.

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn: #98 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"**

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 and John 13:1-17, 31-35

Message: "At the Table"

Invitation (please come to the table in groups of 6)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Skidmore
Communion Liturgy All People

One: The Lord be with you

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion (return to seats and next group of 6 come forward)

Prayer after receiving

Service of Shadows

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Kathy Shaver

Matthew 26:14-25, 31-35

Hymn #93 Ah, Holy Jesus (all verse 1 only)

THE SHADOW OF AN UNSHARED VIGIL

Vicki Higgins

Matthew 26:36-46

Silent Meditation

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION

Amy Ennis

John 18:1-17

Hymn #102 Were You There? Verse 1

THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

Rev. Steve Mitchell

John 18:28-19:16

Hymn #93 Ah, Holy Jesus (all verse 2 only)

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

Amy Ennis

John 19:17-25a

Silent Meditation

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Rev. Ardy Skidmore

Matthew 27: 45-54

Silent Meditation

THE SHADOW OF THE TOMB

Rev. Ardy Skidmore

John 19:31-42

darkness and closing of tomb

When the lights come back on, the service is over



