

Maundy Thursday/ Tenebrae Service

April 2nd, 2026

The Ancient Office of Tenebrae

Silent Prayer & Reflection: Enter quietly, centering your thoughts on Christ.

(The word “Tenebrae” means darkness. The extinguishing of the lights at the close of the service is symbolic of the approach of the dark hate of Jesus’ enemies, the flight of the disciples, and the trial and passion of Christ. After the final reading a Bible will be closed with force to signify Christ’s last breath followed by a moment of total darkness to recall the days our Lord was in the tomb. Please, depart in silence)

+Opening Prayer

Responsive Reading

Beverly Adams

L: O Lord, you search me and know me, you know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar.

P: You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you. Before a word is on my tongue you know it, Lord, through and through.

L: You are behind and before me,

P: Your hand ever laid upon me.

L: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,

P: Too high, beyond my reach.

L: Where can I go from your spirit?

P: Where can I flee from your face?

L: If I climb to the heavens,

P: You are there.

L: If I take the wings of the dawn and dwell at the sea’s furthest end, even there your right hand would lead me.

P: Your right hand will hold me fast.

L: If I say: “Let the darkness hide me and the light around me be night,”

P: Even the darkness is not dark to you, and the night is as clear as the day.

Responsive Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer Sherry Davis

L: On this night Our Lord suffered death, was buried and rose again for our sake. With love let us adore him, aware of our needs. Christ our teacher, for us you were obedient even to death.

P: teach us to obey God’s will in all things.

L: Christ our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed the power of evil and death:

P: Enable us to die with you, and to rise with you in glory.

L: Christ our Strength, you were despised and humiliated as a condemned criminal:

P: Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.

L: Christ our salvation, you gave your life out of love for us.

P: Help us to love one another.

L: Christ our savior, on the cross you embraced all the time with your outstretched arms:

P: Gather all the scattered children of God into your realm.

L: Christ our healer, you are the support of all who encounter difficulties, discouragement and suffering;

P: Come to heal our wounds.

L: Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him into his eternal life. We pray in the name of the One who was crucified, dead, buried, and who rose again for us, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying,
“Our Father,…”

Stripping of the Church

Leroy Allen

(Tenebrae Reading on back cover)