

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE
Prepared by Rev Sandra Houghton

The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service is a very simple service of remembrance of the first Easter. It can be quite emotional, so be prepared to be sad. Please talk to your minister (or a friend or family member if you need assistance.) If possible, have 8 candles- the biggest is the Christ candle which should be placed in the middle, a candle snuffer, a Bible, and if you wish some sort of gong (a saucepan lid and heavy metal spoon can work)- all on a sturdy table. Consider sitting around the table, with a torch or lamp handy for the end.

GREETING: *Light all the candles (and dim or turn off other lights)*

On this Autumn night, now that the darkness has fallen,
we gather to remember the events of the evening
when Jesus shared his last supper with his friends.

TENEBRAE: THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS:

This is a very ancient service, sometimes called the service of shadows.
It takes us through the night, with all its horror and cost.

This year's readings are from Matthew's Gospel, and they bear his emphases and concerns.
It is sombre and simple, for this is the sad and low point of the Christian year.

Let us pray as we recall this time:

O Jesus Christ, Suffering Servant, Lamb of God.
We would learn from you the power of trust in God.
Your ways seem too hard for us. We fall asleep when we should be praying.
We run away from you when we should be staying.
Help us to see what you see and what you know.
Help us to understand the love of God, so that we can trust the will of God.

We hear you say. "O God, if it may be,
let this cup pass from me, but if it be your will, I will drink it."
We hear, but we do not understand, and our eyelids close in sleep.

Christ, forgive us, and help us watch with you.
Open our eyes so that we can glimpse the reality of God's eternal realm;
strengthen our wills, so that in love we may work to make it visible on earth.
We are weak, but you can make us strong.
Send your Spirit, and hear our prayer, which we pray in your name. Amen.

SING: TIS 345; **Were you there?**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

THE SEVEN READINGS:

1. Read Matthew 26:14-25, then say, 'The shadow of betrayal',
Put out a candle, then sing/say:

Were you there when Judas betrayed his Lord?
Were you there when Judas betrayed his Lord?

**O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when Judas betrayed his Lord?**

2. Read Matthew 26:26-46, then say, **'The shadow of inner agony'**,
Put out a candle, then sing:

**Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?
Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?**

3. Read Matthew 26:47-56, then say, **'The shadow of desertion'**,
Put out a candle, then sing/say:

**Were you there when the disciples ran away?
Were you there when the disciples ran away?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when the disciples ran away?**

4. Read Matthew 26:57-68, then say, **'The shadow of mockery'**,
Put out a candle, then sing/say:

**Were you there when they crowned his head with thorns?
Were you there when they crowned his head with thorns?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they crowned his head with thorns?**

5. Read Matthew 26:69-75, then say, **'The shadow of denial'**,
Put out a candle, then sing/say:

**Were you there when Peter denied three times?
Were you there when Peter denied three times?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when Peter denied three times?**

6. Read Matthew 27:1-26, then say, **'The shadow of condemnation'**,
Put out a candle, then sing/say:

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

7. Read Matthew 27:27-54, then say, **'The shadow of death'**,
Put out a candle, then sing/say:

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

The Christ Candle is extinguished, then say, **'It is finished'**
If you want to, sound the gong 33 times (once for each year of Jesus' life).
Sit quietly for a few minutes, then use the torch to safely put the lights back on.