

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: As we prepare for this evening of worship, let us remember who we are.

All: O Christ, in your presence we discover who we are. You wash our feet, and we learn how reluctant we are to serve one another and the world around us. We are so like your disciples, who looked to their own self-centered interests even as you prepared to give yourself for the sake of the whole world. Our love scarcely suffices for those closest to us, and yet you invite us to join all creation at your feast. Forgive us, and help us treasure your presence more deeply, that we may find this night a celebration of overflowing joy.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastor: On Ash Wednesday, you began this season of repentance with confession, and you came forward to receive the ashes of repentance. Come forward now and receive the forgiveness which comes from Christ our Lord.

Those who desire, come to the altar to receive individual forgiveness, either kneeling or standing. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn:

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God reaches out to heal, and to reveal again the love that will not let us go. Know that you are forgiven, to answer God's love with your praise, devotion and service.

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

All share the peace of our Lord.

FOOT WASHING

The ceremonial washing of feet comes from the phrase in the Latin *mandatum novum do vobis* (A new commandment I give unto you. – John 13:34): *dies mandatum* became 'day of maundy'. So the sign of service to one another that Jesus gave, saying 'you also ought to wash one another's feet', was linked with his new commandment (*mandatum*) for the unity of the whole church: **I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.** – John 13:34-35.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Please come to the altar if you desire to have your feet washed. (When your feet have been washed, take the bowl and towel, and wash the feet of someone else, as an act of love and service.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Almighty God, ruler of the universe, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance. You enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. We thank you for the deep love of Jesus, which moved him to give himself for the redemption of all creation. We thank you for the grace we experience in receiving this symbol of having our feet washed. Amen.

HYMN

"My Jesus I Love Thee"

1. My Jesus, I love Thee; I know Thou art mine. For Thee all the follies of sin I resign. My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now.
2. I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree. I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'til now.
3. I'll love Thee in life; I will love Thee in death And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath. And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow, "If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."
4. In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright. I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, "If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

COMMUNION

Please follow from page 16 in the hymnal

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Before the bread and wine are given, the congregation says

All: Creator God we thank you for the nourishment you give us – for bread, and fruit of the vine. God of freedom, we thank you that you do not leave us in bondage, but act in power to liberate us from all oppression. We thank you that Christ, acting in courage and faith, has won for us the victory over sin and death. May the bread and wine be signs of your renewed covenant with us, and may we be ever faithful, until the coming of your final Shalom. Amen.

TENEBRAE

Tenebrae, or "Service of Shadows," is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian church for the commemoration of the passion and death of Christ. Through scripture readings the story of Christ's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion is told. As the Passion story unfolds, candles are extinguished and the darkness deepens, until with the death of Christ, only one light is left burning. This light is removed from the sanctuary, symbolizing Christ's three days in the tomb.