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*We hope to see you tomorrow for  
our Good Friday Tenebrae  
Service at 6 pm and on Easter  
Sunday at 10 am as we celebrate  
Jesus victory over sin and death!*

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## *Service*

Shelbyville First United  
Methodist Church

March 28th, 2024

6:00 pm

# A Service of Worship for Holy Thursday

PRELUDE Lori Schuler

GREETING Pastor Abe Zimmerman

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People: God's mercy endures for ever.**

HYMN *What Wondrous Love Is This?* #292

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Pastor: My sisters and brothers, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

**All: Most merciful God, we your Church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray; and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Pastor Abe

HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* #618

GOSPEL READING Matthew 26:20-30 Pastor Abe

SERMON "Maundy Thursday" Pastor Abe

PASTORAL PRAYER

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING #15-16

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER

#11

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

ANTHEM *It Causes Me to Tremble (Were You There?)* Chancel Choir

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH *Prelude in C# Minor* Lori Schuler, piano

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go in peace. May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and for ever. Amen.

POSTLUDE Lori Schuler

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The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means "commandment." It refers to Jesus' command to his disciples at the Last Supper to love one another, as he loved them (John 13:34-35).

Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is a significant day in the Christian year. It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Twelve Disciples. It is known for a number of distinct practices and traditions; we will observe the following:

**Holy Communion:** This is a central element of Maundy Thursday services. This is where Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples, which he identified as his body and blood. We are invited to the same table where Jesus' body is broken, his blood poured out, and his love unyielding.

**Stripping of the Church:** After communion, the chancel area is stripped of all cloths, candles, and decorations to symbolize the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion.

These elements combine to create a service that is reflective, somber, and yet full of deep meaning, as it prepares us for the sorrow of Good Friday and the hope of Easter Sunday.