

A Short Communion Liturgy

for Maundy Thursday

*For Use with the Tenebrae
or Service of the Shadows*

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Call to Worship

The darkness deepens, and the Lord grows troubled.
Can we watch with Him?
Can we be the friends at His table who share His bread and wine?
Can we be the companions who journey with Him to the end?

***Come, let us worship, let us watch,
and let us give thanks for such great love.
Amen.***

Praise & Confession

Lord Jesus,
We are stunned at Your passion and Your commitment toward us.
You did not run from the darkness,
You did not hide from Your accusers,
You did not fade into safe obscurity.
You stepped with determination into the darkness,
Willingly giving Yourself to whip and fist, to wood and nails.

We praise You, Gracious Lord,
for what You were prepared to endure to reconcile us with God.

We praise You, Gracious Lord,
for Your words of forgiveness, and the invitation to paradise.

Forgive us that allow ourselves to become too familiar with this story.
That we take Your suffering too lightly, and receive Your grace too cheaply.

***As we watch with You, while the darkness encroaches,
Let us remember what this journey means,
and count again the cost of love.
Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The Communion

When the time arrived for Jesus to be lifted up;
When all had been prepared,
and He shared His last meal with His friends,
The Lord, took the loaf, blessed it, broke it,
and gave it to the disciples.

***When you eat the bread, remember Me.
This is my body broken for you.***

When the meal was finished,
The Lord took the cup, blessed it,
and gave it to the disciples.
***When you drink the wine, remember Me.
This is my blood shed for you.***

Now, as we gather at this table,
we eat bread;
we drink wine;
and we remember the One Who died
to bring us life.

***And we will keep sharing this meal
until He returns. Amen.***

Communion is shared.

Thanksgiving

***We thank You, Lord
For giving us this sacred meal,
for giving us Your Presence
and Your life,
And for reminding us of Your
everlasting grace,
Which will be celebrated
for all eternity.
Amen.***

The Service of the Shadows follows.