

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Corner of North Washington and Sycamore Streets  
Van Wert, Ohio 45891 e-mail: [stmarkvw@embarqmail.com](mailto:stmarkvw@embarqmail.com)  
Church: 419-238-6336 Pastor: 419-238-9245

## TENEBRAE—SERVICE OF SHADOWS

MARCH 29, 2024

8:00 p.m.

*The service of tenebrae dates back as far as the seventh century and depicts the final events of Christ's life on earth. The word tenebrae comes from the Latin for "darkness" or "shadows." The candles as they are extinguished one by one symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. In its original form at the conclusion, the final candle, representing Christ, was placed behind the altar leaving the church in darkness. In its amended form, the Christ Candle is returned to the altar, signifying that, even on this day, "nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".*

### PRELUDE

*"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"*

### SILENT MEDITATION

Shadows of Holy Week, adapted from the ancient Tenebrae, a word meaning "shadows," originated during the early years of the church. The service depicts the events that led to the crucifixion.

The people, entering silently, should meditate on the fact that it was on Maundy Thursday that the twelve disciples were with Jesus in the upper room for the last time, and that he and they stood in the shadow of the cross.

The extinguishing of the candles and the gradual dimming of the lights as the several portions of the story are read symbolize the flight of the disciples and the approaching hour of the crucifixion. The moment of total darkness recalls the hours Christ was in the tomb. The return of the light is prophetic of the Easter soon to dawn.

Think and pray on the meaning of this service for you and for the church.

### WELCOME

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . . Gracious God,

**C: time after time we turn to the shadows of sin, and away from the light of your love. Forgive us Lord. Help us to turn away from the paths of darkness, and cling forever to the cross on which our Savior suffered and died for our salvation.**

P: Father of eternity,

**C: we are in no way worthy, Lord, but trusting in the loving promises of your son; we pray that as we hear again the story of his passion, we may be cleansed by the fire of repentance, and made new creatures through his blood. We pray in the name of our dear Lord, your Son, who died that we might live. Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses;  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory ,  
Forever and ever. Amen.      *(Please be seated)***

## OFFERING

(offering boxes, website, text 419-273-9947)

*(Torches are extinguished).*

### **SHADOWS OF SACRIFICE**

#### **1. THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL**

Reading 1 Matthew 26:20-25

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he sat at the table with the twelve disciples; <sup>21</sup>and as they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup> He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?" He said to him, "You have said so."

*(Silence for meditation; the first candle is extinguished)*

#### **I. Is It I, Lord?**

#### **2. THE SHADOW OF INNER AGONY**

Reading 2 Luke 22:39-44

<sup>39</sup> And when he came to the place he said to them, <sup>40</sup> "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.

*(Silence for meditation; the second candle is extinguished)*

#### **II. Remove This Cup**

### **3. THE SHADOW OF LONELINESS**

Reading 3 Matthew 26:40-45

<sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?" <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, thy will be done." <sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

*(Silence for meditation; the third candle is extinguished)*

### **III. 'Tis Midnight**

### **4. THE SHADOW OF DESERTION**

Reading 4 Matthew 26:48-50

<sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him." <sup>49</sup> And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Hail, Master!" And he kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, why are you here?"

*(Silence for meditation; the fourth candle is extinguished)*

### **IV. Friend, Why Are You Here?**

### **5. THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION**

Reading 5 Mark 15:8-15

<sup>8</sup> And Pilate again said to them, <sup>9</sup> "Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup> And they cried out again, "Crucify him!" And Pilate said to them, <sup>11</sup> "Why, what evil has he done?" <sup>12</sup> But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" <sup>13</sup> So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; <sup>14</sup> and having scourged Jesus, <sup>15</sup> he delivered him to be crucified.

*(Silence for meditation; the fifth candle is extinguished)*

## V. Father, Forgive Them

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

## VI. Were You There?

Narrator reading of **Luke 23:39, 42-43, 46**

(during the opening instrumental solo)

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged with him said, <sup>42</sup> “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

## Were You There?

Congregation

Arranged by  
JOHN PURIFOY

Traditional Spiritual

Softly and tenderly  
*mp*

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ some - times it caus - es me to

trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Instrumentalists finish the melody while narrator speaks.

Copyright © 2006 by HAL LEONARD CORPORATION  
International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved

<sup>46</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

## **6. THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

Reading 7 Luke 23:47-48

<sup>47</sup> Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." <sup>48</sup> And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home in great sorrow.

*(Silence for meditation; the seventh candle is extinguished)*

## **VII. O Thou Who Through This Holy Week**

### **VIII. 'Tis Finished**

*(Silence for meditation; the Christ candle is carried out)*

### **TOLLING OF THE BELL**

*The Bell is rung 33 times for the years of our Lord's life.*

*The strepitus (loud sound reminding us of the closing of the tomb in which Jesus' body was placed.*

### **THE RETURN OF THE LIGHT**

The Christ candle returns as a reminder of the hope that is ours through Christ's death and resurrection.

### **THE BENEDICTION**



**ASSISTING MINISTERS THIS WEEK**

Choir Director ----- Stacie Korte  
Organist ----- Dee Fisher  
Lector----- Warren Bowery  
Ushers/Greeters ----- Phil McClure  
Acolytes----- Lola Campbell & Kevin Stechschulte

**EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Communion Service**  
**8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast—Sr. High Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser**  
**8:30 a.m. Liturgical Praise Ensemble Rehearsal**  
**9:30 a.m. Children's Easter Play Practice—NO Sunday School**  
**10:30 a.m. Easter Holy Communion Service**

GUESTS, we thank you for sharing your faith with us today. We hope to see you Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

**THE PARISH STAFF**

Pastor----- Rev. William C. Haggis II  
Office Administrator ----- Mrs. Meisa Coplin  
Organist ----- Mrs. Dee Fisher  
Adult Choir Director----- Mrs. Stacie Korte  
Handbell Choir Director ----- Ms. Monica Campbell  
Children's Choir Director ----- Ms. Monica Campbell  
Custodian ----- Mr. James Ottenweller



# Eclipse Party

**Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> , 2024**

**12:00 noon through 4:00 p.m.**

**Parking lot between Collin's Fine Foods and St.  
Mark's Lutheran Church**

**\$5.00 for a meal**

**Choice of Hamburger or Hot Dog, chips, baked beans, and drink from  
Collin's Fine Foods**

**Popcorn is also available**

**Eclipse glasses are available while supplies last**

**Cornhole in the parking lot**

**Bring your chairs!**

**All Proceeds go to Haven of Hope and House of Transition**