



Salvador Dalí
Christ of Saint John of the Cross, c. 1951.



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seek, Serve, Embrace | Engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ's love

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 18, 2025, 7:00 pm

Tenebrae is the Latin word for “darkness.” The service of Tenebrae, sometimes referred to as a Service of Shadows, has been observed since the ninth century.

A meditation on Christ’s suffering, readings trace the story of his passion, music portrays his pathos, and silence and darkness symbolize the approaching of his death and hopelessness in the world without God.

The bell toll near the end of the service represents Jesus’ 33 years on earth.

PRELUDE

“Elégie” | *Joseph Rheinberger (1839-1901)*

POEM

“Heavy” | *Mary Oliver (1935-2019)*

INTROIT

“John 3:16” | *B.E. Boykin (b. 1989)*

For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son,
that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace from God our Father-Mother and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

who saves us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.



***HYMN**

"Alone, Thou Goest Forth" | *BANGOR*

1 A - lone thou go - est forth, O Lord, in
2 Our sins, not thine, thou bear - est, Lord; make
3 This is earth's dark - est hour, but thou dost
4 Grant us with thee to suf - fer pain that,

sac - ri - fice to die; is this thy sor - row
us thy sor - row feel, till through our pit - y
light and life re - store; then let all praise be
as we share this hour, thy cross may bring us

nought to us who pass un - heed - ing by?
and our shame love an - swers love's ap - peal.
giv - en thee who liv - est ev - er - more.
to thy joy and re - sur - rec - tion power.

***PRAYER**

Almighty and ever-living God,
in your tender love for the human race
you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
giving us the example of his great humility.

Grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering
and share in his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Matthew 26: 30-35

*HYMN

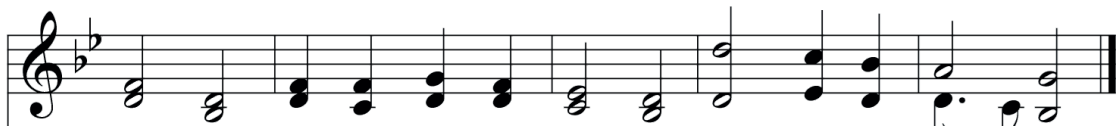
"Ah, Holy Jesus" | *HERZLIEBSTER JESU*, arr. John Ferguson (1941 - 2025)



All Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
Lower Voices Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
Higher Voices Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
Choir For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,
All There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,



that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord
the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a -
thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's o - bla - tion, thy death of
I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy



rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.



THE SHADOW OF THE GARDEN

Mark 14: 32-42

HYMN

"Christ at Table There with Friends" | MAUNDY THURSDAY, arr. Emma Lou Diemer



1 Christ at ta - ble there with friends shar - ing bread and
2 In the gar - den Je - sus bows. Harsh the cry that
3 "Yet, your will, not mine, be done. For this pur - pose



wine, and then Speak - ing words of mys - ter - y:
ris - es now: "Fa - ther, some way let it be!
I am come. Thus to make all peo - ple new I



"Thus re - mem - ber me, thus re - mem - ber me."
Take this cup from me, take this cup from me!"
take this cup from you, I take this cup from you."

THE SHADOW OF ARREST

Mark 14: 43-50

"Shadows Lengthen Into Night" | SHADOWS

Sharing Paschal bread and wine as the daylight ebbs away,
Friends at table join to dine. One of them will soon betray. Shadows lengthen into night.
In a grove of olive trees underneath a dark'ning sky,
Jesus warns what he foresees: Peter also will deny. Shadows lengthen into night.
In the garden, still and deep, those he asked to watch and pray,
Heavy-lidded, fall asleep, weary from the anxious day. Shadows lengthen into night.

Deeper in the garden's chill, Jesus kneels to pray alone,
Wrestling with God's holy will, crying out, "Let it be done!" Shadows lengthen into night.
All too soon, the silence rends, with a crash of club and sword.
Judas, still received as "Friend," with a kiss betrays his Lord. Shadows lengthen into night.

THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

Matthew 27: 11-18, 21-31

"To Mock Your Reign" | *THIRD MODE MELODY*

To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns;
set you with taunts along that road from which no one returns.
They did not know, as we do now, that glorious is your crown;
that thorns would flower upon your brow, your sorrows heal our own.

In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak,
your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.
They did not know, as we do now, that though we merit blame
you will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.

A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into your hand,
and acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.
They did not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall,
your Kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all.

THE SHADOW OF DESERTION

Lamentations 1: 12, 3: 2-20

"Eram quasi agnus" (from *Tenebrae Responsories*) | Tomás de la Victoria (1548 – 1611)

Eram quasi agnus innocens;
ductus sum ad immolandum, et nesciebam.
consilium fecerunt inimici
mei adversum me dicentes:
Venite, mittamus lignum in panem eius,
et eradamus eum de terra vivenlium.

*I was like an innocent lamb;
I was led to be sacrificed, and I knew it not.
My enemies conspired
against me saying:
Come, let us put wood into his bread,
and root him out of the land of the living.*

Omnes inimici mei
adversum me cogitabant mala mihi:
verbum iniquum mandaverunt
adversum me, dicentes :
Venite, mittamus lignum in panem eius,
et eradamus eum de terra vivenlium.

*All my enemies
have conspired mischief against me:
they have spoken evil words
against me, saying:
Come, let us put wood into his bread,
and root him out of the land of the living.*

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

John 19: 17-30

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" | PASSION CHORALE

All 1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
All 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
Choir 3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with-out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint-ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

THE SHADOW OF BURIAL

Matthew 27: 57-60

"Christus Factus Est" | Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens,
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum
ed dedit illi nomen,
quod est super omne nomen.

Christ became obedient for us
unto death, even death on the cross.
Therefore God exalted him
and gave him a name,
which is above all names.

PRAYER

Holy God, grant, that as we are baptized into the death of your blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we may be buried with him, and that through the grave and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection. Amen.

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS REMOVED

"Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus (*Praise to the Eternity of Jesus*)"
(from *Quartet for the End of Time*) | Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

We invite you to depart in silent reflection at the conclusion of the service.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian Shivers | *Pastor*
Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*
Marko Petričić | *Organ*
Kurt Fowler | *Cello*
Chamber Ensemble
Chancel Choir
Doug Shafer-Johnson | *Soloist*

Readers:
Loui Lord Nelson
Moriah Root
Daniel Backfish-White
Matt Kroeger
John Purcell
Monica Brase
Mary Beth Riner

Easter Sunday | Apr. 20 | 10:00 am

Join us for a joyful celebration of the resurrection
with Northminster's Chancel Choir and brass quintet.

Labyrinth | Apr. 13 - 19

The Northminster Labyrinth is available in the Chapel from now through
Saturday, April 19th, and is open during regular building hours.

