

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE
A SERVICE OF SHADOWS
BY HEATHER SORENSON
FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
April 3, 2026

Prelude *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Piano/Cello/Viola
During this prelude, the altar will be stripped. Traditionally done at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service, the stripping of the altar symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Reader: Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

Introduction to Tenebrae Worship Leaders: Terry Kalberg, Judy Beckman

The Shadow of Loneliness

Matthew 26:36-45 Readers: Amanda Stattelmann, Jim Foster
Sr. Choir “Stay With Me”

The Shadow of Desertion

Matthew 26:47-56 Readers: Marilyn Hanson, Brent Zahrbock

Congregational Response “My Jesus, I Love Thee” vs 1-2

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 has first loved me, and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree. I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow. If ever I love Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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The Shadow of Accusation and Denial

Matthew 26 excerpts Readers: Archer Dorry, Marla Strei

Prayer of Confession

WL: When we act as though your Gospel does not have the power to change us

Cong: Forgive us, Lord.

WL: When we are consumed by Satan's lies, even though Your truth has set us free,

Cong: Forgive us, Lord

WL: For desiring status and power, and yet failing to be Your servant; For being so quick to accept your grace

Cong: but then so slow to extend it to those who have hurt us, Forgive us, Lord.

WL: For the times when You ran toward us with arms extended,

Cong: but we treated You like a stranger, Forgive us Lord.

WL: Forgive us, Lord, for losing hope in Your goodness,

Cong: for the smallness of our faith.

WL: Forgive us for the sins we know and remember; these sins weigh heavily upon us.

Cong: And forgive us for the sins which we have forgotten, which meant almost nothing to us, but cost You so dearly.

WL: In this solemn hour, as we remember Your death,

Cong: we ask You to break open all the places that have hardened within us,

WL: every place that is self-satisfied and self-serving, every attitude that is superior and smug.

Cong: We come before you, Lord, asking You to forgive us for loving You so little. We are so guilty. Forgive us, Lord. Amen.

WL: Nehemiah 9:17 "But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

Sr. Choir "Search Me, O God"

The Shadow of Humiliation and Crucifixion

Mark 15:12-20, 29-32

Readers: Liz Ketz, Dan Stores, Becky Parker

Congregational Response "My Jesus, I Love Thee" vs. 3-4

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 upon my brow, if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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Dramatic Monologue

"I am Not God"

Darin Ehrenberg

Congregational Response "Far Reaching is the Father's Love"

1. Far reaching is the Father's love, beyond all height and depth, way past the sin that others see and secrets we have kept.

2. Wide ranging is the Father's love, extensive, boundless, vast. He draws His children to His arms, forgiving all their past.

3. Expansive is the Father's love, around, below, above. In ev'ry place, at any time, in all things, God is love.

Words by R. G. Huff. Tune: NEW BRITAIN, Virginia Harmony, 1831, arranged by Heather Sorenson.

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Explanation of the End of Service Symbolism

The Shadow of Death

Matthew 27 excerpts

Sr. Choir

"Until You Save the World"

Strepitus

Silence for 3 minutes

Handbell signifying our exit

Please exit in silence.

Reader: Terry Kalberg

Soloist: Katelyn Renne

Sr. Choir Director: Lisa Berdan

Instrumentalists: Carol Ydstie, piano; Emily Trusty, cello; Meg Scholberg, viola; Traci Tschetter, violin

Altar Assistants: Jocelyn Schowalter, Julie Hipple, Marilyn Hanson, Liz Ketz, Marla Strei, Kirsti Ehrenberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Becky Parker, Archer Dorry, Sara Mathes, Judy Beckman, Paula Reisdorph

Candle Extinguisher: Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

A very special thank you to all the members of the First English Lutheran Choir, community choir members, and all who participated in this evening's service.

Please join us for the celebration of the Resurrection this Easter Sunday at 7:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served by our youth following the Sunrise service.

CHOIR PARTICIPANTS

Soprano

Amanda Stattelmann
Marilyn Hanson
Kristi Ehrenberg
Marla Strei
Julie Hipple
Marilyn Chindvall
Paulette Webb
Diane Vangness
Sebastian Hoefs

Alto

Liz Ketz
Becky Parker
Katelyn Renne
Nancy Nolop
Kathy Longhenry
Lindy Lu Hammer
Paula Reisdorph
Sara Mathes

Tenor

Judy Beckman
Brent Zahrbock
Jonathan Ydstie
Jim Foster
Russ Howard

Bass

Ray Ogdahl
Darin Ehrenberg
Archer Dorry
Dick Strei
Terry Kalberg
Dan Stores

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