

SERVICE OF SHADOWS

7:30 p.m. April 3, 2026

This service is an adaptation of an early fourth-century worship service, traditional to Holy Week. The church is well lighted at the beginning of the service. The lights dim as it continues, until, at the end, the sanctuary is shrouded in deep shadows. The gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles is symbolic of the flight of the disciples and the resentment of the world leading to the final isolation of Jesus on the Cross. At the conclusion a bell is tolled thirty-three times, recalling each year of Christ's life.

*Hymn 108 ***Of the Father's Love Begotten*** (vv. 1, 5, & 6) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Responses The Rev. Vance Polley

Leader: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?*

Response: ***O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest.***

Leader: *All who see me scorn me, laughing at me; they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying:*

Response: ***"He trusted in the Lord; let God deliver him; let God rescue him, if God delights in him."***

Leader: *I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.*

Response: ***Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.*** (Ps. 22)

Leader: *Let us join our hearts and voices in our Prayer for Special Grace.*

*Prayer for Special Grace (unison)

Forbid, O God, that we should forget, amid our earthly comforts, the pains and mortal anguish that our Lord Jesus endured for our salvation. Grant us this night a true vision of all that he suffered, in his betrayal, his lonely agony, his false trial, his mocking and scourging, and the torture of death upon the cross. As you have given yourself utterly for us, may we give ourselves entirely to you. Amen.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, before you all hearts are open, and from you no secrets are hid. We bring you now our shame and sorrow for our sins. We have forgotten that life is from you and unto you. We have neither sought nor done your will. We have not been truthful in our hearts, in our speech, and in our lives. We have not loved as we ought to love. Help us and heal us, we pray. Raise us from our sins to a better life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time of Self-examination and Personal Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness Reece Humphreys Thomas

Scripture: Matthew 26:20-25 *The Shadow of Betrayal* Reece Humphreys Thomas

Hymn 218 ***Ah, Holy Jesus*** (vv. 1, 2, 4, & 5) HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Scripture: Matthew 26:30-35 *The Shadow of Desertion* The Rev. Vance Polley

Hymn 220 ***Go to Dark Gethsemane*** REDHEAD 76

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46 *The Shadow of an Unshared Vigil* Reece H. Thomas

Hymn 223 ***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*** HAMBURG

Scripture: Mark 14:43-49 *The Kiss of Betrayal* The Rev. Vance Polley

Hymn 228 ***Were You There?*** (vv. 1, 2, 3, & 5) WERE YOU THERE
Rick Wagner, guitar & vocals

Scripture: Luke 22:54-71 *The Shadow of Accusation* Reece Humphreys Thomas

Hymn 221 ***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*** PASSION CHORALE

Scripture: Luke 23:32-43 *The Shadow of the Crucifixion* The Rev. Vance Polley

Musical Interlude *Fantasia in D minor, (K. 397)* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Scripture: Mark 15:33-39 *The Shadow of Death* Reece Humphreys Thomas

Tolling of the Bell

*Recessional ~ *Please leave the sanctuary in silence.*

*All those who are able, please stand.

Sunday, April 5

Easter

6:45 a.m. *Community Sunrise Service at Breach Inlet*

10:00 a.m. *Celebration of the Resurrection*

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Good Friday
April 3, 2026