

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**Worship Service**  
**March 20, 2008     7:00pm**

**PRELUDE**                      Chorale Prelude                      *-J.S. Bach*

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**                      Isaiah 53 (selected verses)

**HOMILY**                      “A night of darkness”     Elder Richard Jones

**\*HYMN**                      102                      *Were You There?*

**THE PASSION OF OUR CHRIST IN SIGHT AND SOUND**  
**The Stripping of the Sanctuary colors, paraments and candles.**

**“One of you is about to betray me.”**

**“Love one another as I have loved you.”**

**“The hour of shadows.”**

**“I don’t know him!”**

**“Are you a king?”**

**“Hail, High and Mighty Majesty!”**

**“Ecce Homo. Behold the Man.”**

**“The people will decide.”**

**“Crucify Him!”**

**“... through His wounds, we are healed.”**

**“Father, into thy hands...”**

**The Christ Candle is extinguished.**

The congregation is asked to leave the Sanctuary in quiet meditation.

\*all who are able may stand

## **Some notes on the Stripping of the Sanctuary**

*Oftentimes the service for Maundy Thursday concludes with the stripping of the sanctuary, which is done in absolute silence and in an unhurried, orderly fashion. The practice dates from the seventh century and originally served the practical purpose of cleaning the sanctuary in preparation for Easter, when all things are made new. In time, however, the practice became ceremonial in its own right. In silence and in shadows, communion vessels, table cloths, pulpit and lectern hangings, banners, candles, and all other decorative and liturgical objects are sensitively removed, thus dramatizing the desolation, abandonment and darkness of the passion and death of our Lord. The sanctuary remains bare until the beginnings of the Easter celebration. There is neither a blessing nor a postlude at the conclusion of the service. The church remains in darkness, and all exit in silence. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.*

