

## **Tenebrae**

by [Diane G. Scholl](#) in the [April 2023](#) issue

After the foot washing,  
the singing and the plaintive  
prayers, host and wine,  
snuff the beeswax candles  
out to leave no brittle  
winding-sheet. Let no one  
speak the sharp edge  
of their grief tonight.  
Let no voice lift in praise  
or sorrow, no stones cry.

As light drains slowly  
from the evening's eye,  
strip the altar's purple gown.

Slam the book down.