Tenebrae
Wednesday in Holy Week
April 17, 2019
7:00 PM
The name Tenebræ (the Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows”) has for centuries been applied to the ancient monastic night and early morning services (Matins and Lauds) of the last three days of Holy Week, which in medieval times came to be celebrated on the preceding evenings.

Recognizing the great beauty and value of the Tenebræ chants and texts, the Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church provides a service of Tenebræ in The Book of Occasional Services, upon which tonight’s liturgy is based. It combines into one service the strongest elements of all three Tenebræ offices and offers an extended meditation on, and a prelude to, the events in our Lord’s life between the Last Supper and the Resurrection.

While much of tonight’s liturgy will be sung by the choir alone, certain portions are sung by the entire assembly. Please join in singing as indicated. As the chants and readings progress, the candles on the altar and the lights in the nave are extinguished one by one, until only a lone candle remains. (You are encouraged to look to the end of the service leaflet before the service begins; it will become more difficult to read as the church darkens.) Then even that single light is hidden away, and we remain in darkness, meditating on the mystery of Christ’s death and the promise of light and life found in the final psalms and anthems. The candle then reappears, and by its light we pray and leave quietly, anticipating the events to unfold beginning tomorrow, in the Liturgy of the Paschal Triduum (the Sacred Three Days).

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason, Dean and Rector of Saint Mark’s Cathedral, Officiant
MATINS

ANTIPHON 1  Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

_Psalm 69:1–23  •  Salvum me fac_  Plainsong Tone III.4

_Save me, O God,_
for the waters have risen up to my neck. *
I am sinking in deep mire, and there is no firm ground for my feet.

_[The remainder of the Psalm may be found in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 679.]

Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

ANTIPHON 2  The antiphon is introduced by a Cantor, then repeated by all.

_Cantor_  [Be pleased, O] God, to de / liver me; *
_O Lord, make / haste to help me._

_Assembly_  Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dis / mayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw / back and be disgraced.

_Cantor_  Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me / turn back, *
be / cause they are ashamed.

_Assembly_  Let all who seek you rejoice and be / glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever, / “Great is the LORD!”

_Cantor_  But as for me, I am poor and / needy; *
come to me speed / ily, O God.

_Assembly_  You are my helper and my de / liverer; *
_O Lord, / do not tarry._

_All_  Let them draw back and be disgraced who take pleasure in my misfortune.
ANTIPHON 3  Arise O God, maintain my cause.

Psalm 74  •  Ut quid, Deus?  

O God, why have you utterly cast us off? *
Why is your wrath so hot against the sheep of your pasture?

[The remainder of the Psalm may be found in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 689.]

Arise O God, maintain my cause.

When the Officiant stands, all rise as able.

VERSICLE & RESPONSE

Officiant  Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked:
Assembly     From the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

All remain standing for silent prayer.

When the Officiant sits, all are seated for the lessons.
All are seated.

LESSON 1  Lamentations 1:1–5

A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet.

Aleph*

How solitary lies the city,
once so full of people!
How like a widow has she become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a queen among the cities
has now become a vassal.

Beth

She weeps bitterly in the night,
tears run down her cheeks;
among all her lovers
she has none to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her,
they have become her enemies.

Gimel

Judah has gone into the misery of exile
and of hard servitude;
she dwells now among the nations,
but finds no resting place;
all her pursuers overtook her
in the midst of her anguish.

Daleth

The roads to Zion mourn,
because none come to the solemn feasts;
all her gates are desolate,
her priests groan and sigh;
her virgins are afflicted,
and she is in bitterness.

He

Her adversaries have become her masters,
her enemies prosper,
because the Lord has punished her
for the multitude of her rebellions;
her children are gone,
driven away as captives by the enemy.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Return to the Lord your God!

* In the original Hebrew, each chapter of the 'Eykhôh or Book of Lamentations is an acrostic, in which each verse begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The recitation of these letters is a distinctive and integral part of the traditional Tenebrae service.

All rise as able.

RESPONSORY 1  In monte Oliveti setting by Brian Fairbanks (b. 1968)

Officiant  On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the Father:

Assembly  Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me

the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Officiant  V. Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation.

Assembly  the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
All are seated.

LESSON 2  Lamentations 1:6–9

From the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet.

Waw

And from daughter Zion all her majesty has departed;
her princes have become like stags that can find no pasture,
and that run without strength before the hunter.

Zayin

Jerusalem remembers,
in the days of her affliction and bitterness,
all the precious things that were hers from the days of old;
when her people fell into the hand of the foe,
and there was none to help her,
the adversary saw her,
and mocked at her downfall.

Heth

Jerusalem has sinned greatly,
therefore she has become a thing unclean;
all who honored her despise her,
for they have seen her nakedness;
and now she sighs,
and turns her face away.

Teth

Uncleanness clung to her skirts;
she took no thought of her doom;
therefore her fall is terrible,
she has no comforter.
“O Lord, behold my affliction,
for the enemy has triumphed!”

Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Return to the Lord your God!

RESPONSORY 2  Tristis est anima mea  Fairbanks

Officiant  My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death:

Assembly  remain here and watch with me.

Now you will see the crowd who will surround me;
you will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.

Officiant  V. Behold, the hour is at hand,

and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners;

Assembly  You will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.
All are seated.

**Lesson 3  Lamentations 1:10–15**

*A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet.*

**Yodh**

The adversary has stretched out his hand to seize all her precious things; she has seen the Gentiles invade her sanctuary, those whom you had forbidden to enter your congregation.

**Kaph**

All her people groan as they search for bread; they sell their own children for food to revive their strength.

“Behold, O Lord, and consider, for I am now beneath contempt!”

**Lamedh**

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his burning anger.

**Mem**

From on high he sent fire; into my bones it descended; he spread a net for my feet, and turned me back; he has left me desolate and faint all the day long.

**Nun**

My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; their yoke is upon my neck; he has caused my strength to fail. The Lord has delivered me into their hands, against whom I am not able to stand up.

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Return to the Lord your God!*

---

**All rise as able.**

**Responsory 3  Ecce vidimus eum**

*Fairbanks*

**Officiant**  Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty,

**Assembly**  with no looks to attract our eyes.

**Officiant**  He bore our sins and grieved for us, he was wounded for our transgressions, and by his scourging we are healed.

**Assembly**  and by his scourging we are healed.

**Officiant**  Lo, we have seen him... &c. to **END**
LAUDS

All are seated.

ANTIPHON 4  The antiphon is introduced by a Cantor, then repeated by all.

Psalm 63:1–8  ♦ Deus, Deus meus  Plainsong, Tone II.1

Cantor [O God, you] are my God; eagerly I / seek you; *
my soul faints for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is / no water.

Assembly Therefore I have gazed upon you in your / holy place, *
that I might behold your power and / your glory.

Cantor For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

Assembly So will I bless you as long as I / live *
and lift up my hands / in your Name.

Cantor My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

Assembly When I remember you up-/on my bed, *
and meditate on you in the / night watches.

Cantor For you have been my / helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings / I will rejoice.

Assembly My soul / clings to you; *
your right / hand holds me fast.

God did not spare his own son, but de - liv - ered him up for us all.

All God did not spare his own son, but de - liv - ered him up for us all.
From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.

Isaiah 38:10–20 • Ego dixi in dimidio dierum. Anglican Chant by Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

The Song of Hezekiah

In my despair I said, “In the noonday of my life I must depart; * my unspent years are summoned to the portals of death.”

And I said, “No more shall I see the Lord in the land of the living, * never more look on my kind among dwellers on earth.

My house is pulled down and I am uncovered, * as when a shepherd strikes his tent.

My life is rolled up like a bolt of cloth, * the threads cut off from the loom.

Between sunrise and sunset my life is brought to an end; * I cower and hope for the dawn.

Like a lion he has crushed all my bones; * like a swallow or thrush I utter plaintive cries; I mourn like a dove.

My weary eyes look up to you; * Lord, be my refuge in my affliction.”

But what can I say? for he has spoken; * it is he who has done this.

Slow and halting are my steps all my days, * because of the bitterness of my spirit.

O Lord, I recounted all these things to you and you rescued me; * when entreated, you restored my life.

I know now that my bitterness was for my good, * for you held me back from the pit of destruction, you cast all my sins behind you.

The grave does not thank you nor death give you praise; * nor do those at the brink of the grave hang on your promises.

It is the living, O Lord, the living who give you thanks as I do this day; and parents speak of your faithfulness to their children.

You, Lord, are my Savior; * I will praise you with stringed instruments all the days of my life, in the house of the Lord.

From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.
ANTIPHON 6  The antiphon is introduced by a Cantor, then repeated by all.

During the singing of the following Canticle, all remaining lights in the church are extinguished, except for one final candle. All remain standing as able.

antiphon 6

Luke 1:68–79  Benedicte Dominus Deus Israel

◆  Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel

Gregory Bloch (b. 1977)

Cantor

Praise God in his holy / temple; *
Praise him in the firmament / of his power.

Assembly

Praise him for his / mighty acts; *
praise him for his ex-/cellent greatness.

Cantor

Praise him with the blast of the / ram’s-horn; *
praise / him with lyre and harp.

Assembly

Praise him with timbrel and / dance; *
praise / him with strings and pipe.

Cantor

Praise him with resounding / cymbals; *
praise him with loud-/clanging cymbals.

Assembly

Let everything that has / breath *
– / – – praise the LORD!

All stand as able.

VERSICLE & RESPONSE

Officiant  My flesh also shall rest in hope:

Assembly  You will not let your Holy One see corruption.

During the singing of the following Canticle, all remaining lights in the church are extinguished, except for one final candle. All remain standing as able.

ANTIPHON 7  Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.

Luke 1:68–79  Benedicte Dominus Deus Israel

◆  Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel

Gregory Bloch (b. 1977)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his his people and set them free.

[The remainder of the Canticle may be found in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 92.]

Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.
The remaining candle is taken from the stand and hidden.

All kneel as able for the singing of the following anthem

**ANTHEM**  
*Philippians 2:8–9*  
Christus factus est  
Christ for us became obedient  
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.  
unto death, even death on a cross;  
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum,  
et dedit illi nomen,  
quod est super omne nomen.  
therefore God has highly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the Name  
which is above every name.

Silence is observed.

All are seated.

**THE MISERERE**  
*Psalm 51*  
Miserere mei, Deus  
Plainsong Tone IV.1, & monotone

**H**ave mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses  
[The remainder of the Psalm may be found in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 656]

**COLLECT**

*Officiant*  
Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross.

Nothing further is said; but a noise is made, and the remaining candle is brought from its hiding place and replaced on the stand.

By its light the ministers and Assembly depart in silence.

---

**OFFICIANT**  
The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

**ACOLYTES**  
Erik Donner  
Ray Miller

**MUSICIANS**  
Adults of the Evensong Choir