

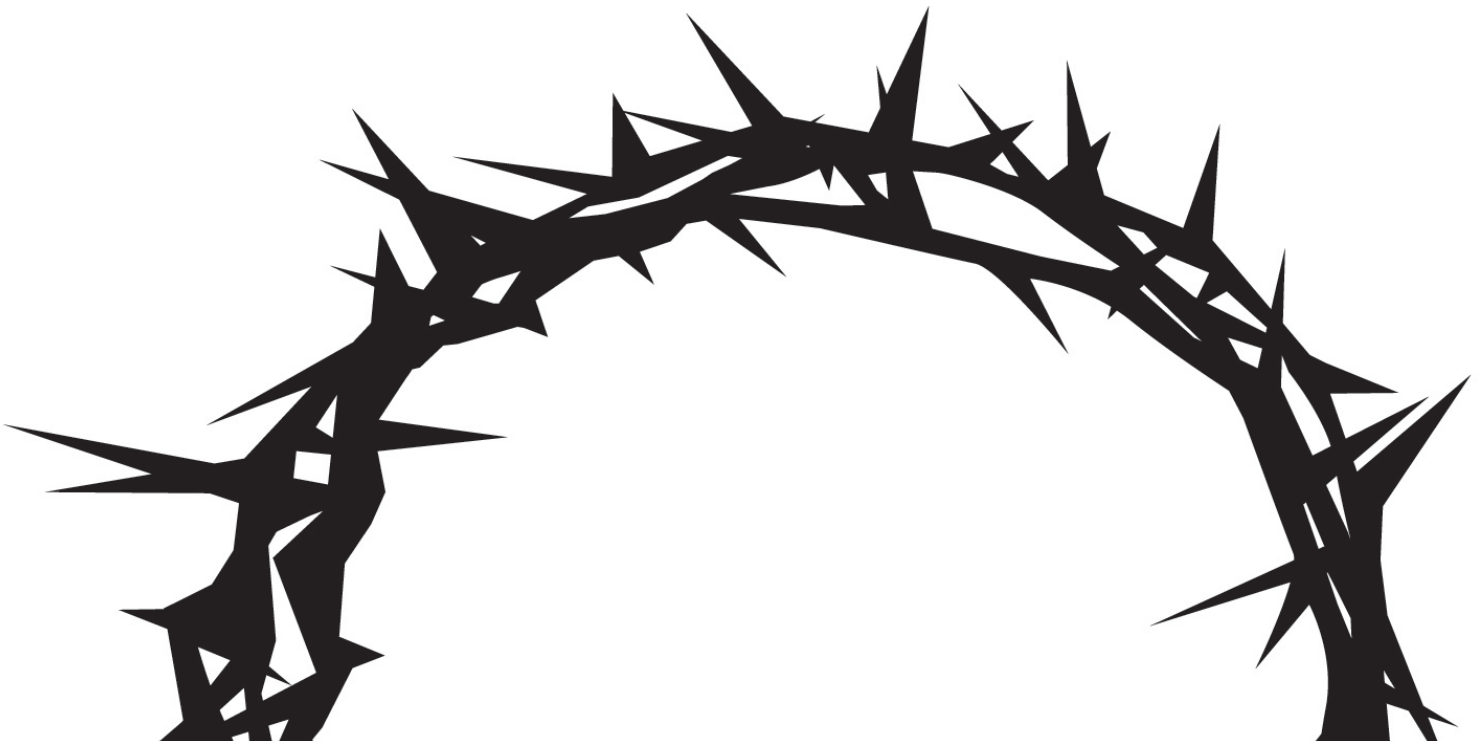


SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK
A SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

April 1, 2026

7:00 PM



The name Tenebrae (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 Tenebrae chants and texts, the Episcopal Church provides a service of Tenebrae in The Book of Occasional Services, upon which tonight’s liturgy is based. It combines into one service the strongest elements of all three Tenebrae 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. A noise is made, the candle 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).

Those joining via livestream will notice that the choir will not appear on screen. This reflects the experience of those in the nave, for whom the choir remains invisible in the loft at all times, and in addition, the lights that the musicians use to see their music would disrupt the drama of light and darkness that is central to this liturgy.

Please silence all phones and audible devices.

The Assembly gathers in silence.

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.

- 3 I have come into deep waters, *
and the torrent washes over me.
- 4 I have grown weary with my crying; my throat is inflamed; *
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.

- 5 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty. *
Must I then give back what I never stole?
- 6 O God, you know my foolishness, *
and my faults are not hidden from you.
- 7 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, Lord GOD of hosts; *
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me, O God of Israel.
- 8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, *
and shame has covered my face.
- 9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, *
an alien to my mother's children.
- 10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; *
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
- 11 I humbled myself with fasting, *
but that was turned to my reproach.
- 12 I put on sack-cloth also, *
and became a byword among them.
- 13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, *
and the drunkards make songs about me.
- 14 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, *
at the time you have set, O LORD:
- 15 "In your great mercy, O God, *
answer me with your unfailing help.
- 16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; *
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.
- 17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; *
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
- 18 Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; *
in your great compassion, turn to me."
- 19 "Hide not your face from your servant; *
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- 20 Draw near to me and redeem me; *
because of my enemies deliver me.
- 21 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; *
my adversaries are all in your sight."
- 22 Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed; *
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I could find no one.
- 23 They gave me gall to eat, *
and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

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

- 7 They said to themselves, "Let us destroy them altogether." *
They burned down all the meeting-places of God in the land.
- 8 There are no signs for us to see;
there is no prophet left; *
there is not one among us who knows how long.
- 9 How long, O God, will the adversary scoff? *
will the enemy blaspheme your Name for ever?
- 10 Why do you draw back your hand? *
why is your right hand hidden in your bosom?
- 11 Yet God is my King from ancient times, *
victorious in the midst of the earth.
- 12 You divided the sea by your might *
and shattered the heads of the dragons upon the waters;
- 13 You crushed the heads of Leviathan *
and gave him to the people of the desert for food.
- 14 You split open spring and torrent; *
you dried up ever-flowing rivers.
- 15 Yours is the day, yours also the night; *
you established the moon and the sun.
- 16 You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; *
you made both summer and winter.
- 17 Remember, O LORD, how the enemy scoffed, *
how a foolish people despised your Name.
- 18 Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts; *
never forget the lives of your poor.
- 19 Look upon your covenant; *
the dark places of the earth are haunts of violence.
- 20 Let not the oppressed turn away ashamed; *
let the poor and needy praise your Name.
- 21 Arise, O God, maintain your cause; *
remember how fools revile you all day long.
- 22 Forget not the clamor of your adversaries, *
the unending tumult of those who rise up against you.

Arise, O God, maintain your 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 a period of silent prayer.

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

All are seated.

All rise as able.

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

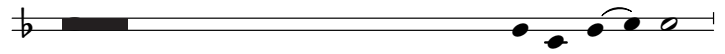
The roads to Zion mourn,
because none come to the solemn feasts;
all her gates are desolate,
her priests groan and sigh;
her virgins are afflicted,
and she is in bitterness.

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!

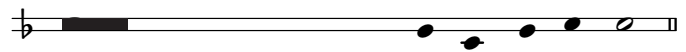
RESPONSORY 1 *In monte Oliveti* setting by
Brian Fairbanks (b. 1968)



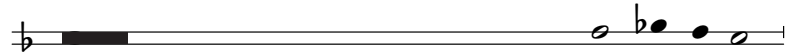
Officiant On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the Fa - ther:



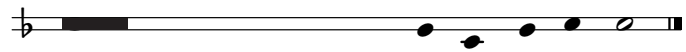
Assembly Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me



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.

* In the original Hebrew, each of the first four chapters of the 'Ēkhāh 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 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

¶ Uncleaness 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!”

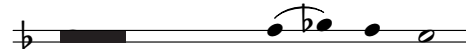
Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Return to the Lord your God!

All rise as able.

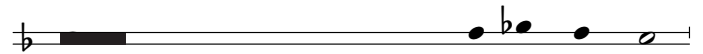
RESPONSORY 2 *Tristis est anima mea* Fairbanks



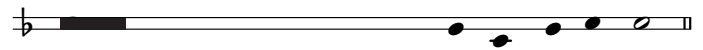
Officiant My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death:



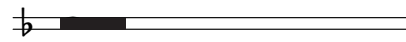
Assembly remain here and watch with me.



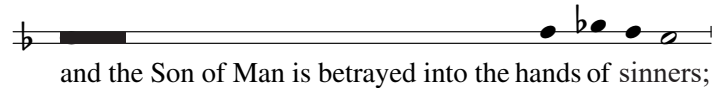
Now you will see the crowd who will surround me;



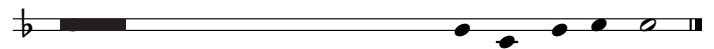
you will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.



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.

All rise as able.

LESSON 3 Lamentations 1:10-15

RESPONSORY 3 Ecce vidimus eum Fairbanks

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.

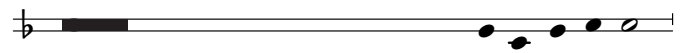
Mem

¶ 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.

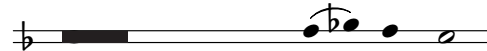
Nun

¶ 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.

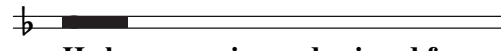
Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Return to the Lord your God!



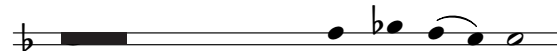
Officiant Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majes-ty,



Assembly with no looks to at-tract our eyes.



He bore our sins and grieved for us,



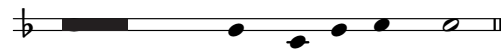
he was wounded for our transgressions,



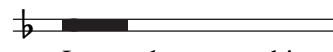
and by his scourging we are healed.



Officiant V. Surely he has bourne our griefs and carried our sorrows:



Assembly and by his scourging we are healed.

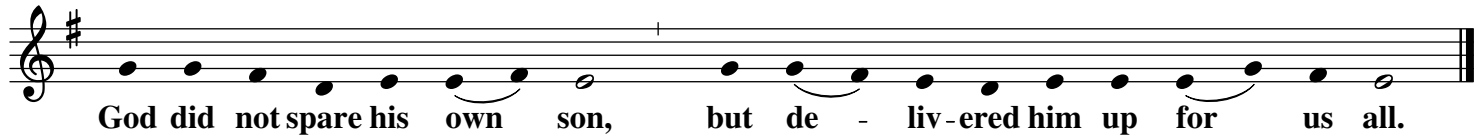


Officiant Lo, we have seen him... &c. to END

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



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.

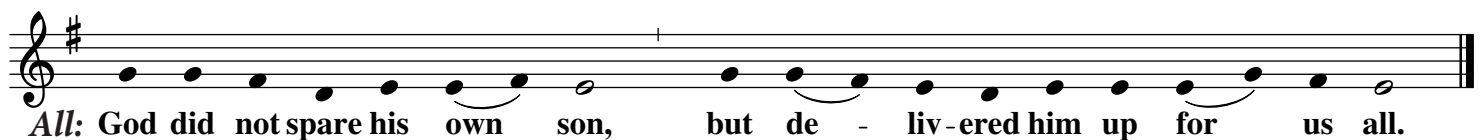
Assembly **So will I bless you as long as I / live ***
and lift up my hands / in your Name.

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.



ANTIPHON 5**From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.***The Song of Hezekiah*

Anglican Chant by Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

*Isaiah 38:10–20 ♦ Ego dixi in dimidio dierum***I**N 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.

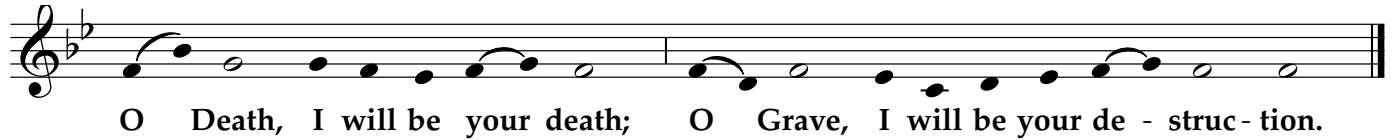
It is the living, O Lord, the living who give you thanks as I do this day;
and parents speak of your faithfulness to their children.

You, LORD, are my Savior; *

I will praise you with stringed instruments
all the days of my life, in the house of the LORD.

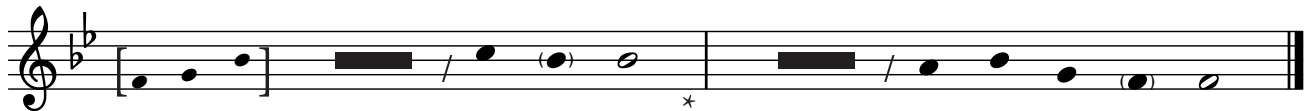
From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.

ANTIPHON 6 *The antiphon is introduced by a Cantor, then repeated by all.*



Psalm 150 ♦ Laudate Dominum

Plainsong, Tone VIII.1



**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.

The Song of Zechariah

Plainsong, Tonus Peregrinus

Luke 1:68–79 ♦ Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel

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

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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*

Plainsong, Tone V

Christ for us became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross;
therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the Name which is above every name.

A period of silence is observed.

All are seated.

THE MISERERE *Psalm 51* ♦ *Miserere mei, Deus*

Gregorio Allegri (c. 1582–1652)

arranged by Gregory Bloch

based on the earliest manuscript version, 1638

- H**AVE mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
 - 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
 - 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
 - 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
 - 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
 - 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
 - 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
 - 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
 - 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

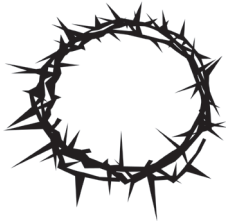
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 19 Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- 20 Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar. ♦

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.



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

OFFICIANT

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

ACOLYTES

Russ Campbell

Erik Donner

USHERS

Hilary McLeland-Wieser

David Wild

SOUND

Michael Perera

LIVESTREAM

Seth Thomsen

MUSICIANS

The Adults of the Evensong Choir

Canon Michael Kleinschmidt, *director*

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EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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