



Tenebrae

TENEBRAE

This service of Tenebrae is based upon the Roman tradition of the service: it is a vigil office of lessons and lights centered around the Passion and Death of Christ. It is a meditation in ritual upon the loving sacrifice of the Lord Jesus.

The Lucernarium which opens the service is an ancient form of evening prayer. It is solemn thanksgiving for the light of Christ. This blessing which is sung over the Christ candle is taken from the *Didache*, circa 95 A. D., and establishes the centrality of Christ in the rest of the service and the Christ candle remains lighted throughout. The candles in the hearse are lighted at this time. During the course of the service they are extinguished. The gradual darkening of the sanctuary gives Tenebrae its particular character and tone as the complementary vigil to Holy Saturday. During the Easter Vigil one light sets everything alight; at Tenebrae there is gradual darkness and silence, until the end, when only the Christ candle remains in silence.

The three nocturns of the Roman lectionary amplify this Christological meditation. Christ is seen as the one who weeps over Jerusalem (The Lamentations of Jeremiah); the hoped for fulfillment of the psalmist (St. Augustine); the true sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart (Ps. 51, 55, 71); and the true and eternal High Priest (Letter to the Hebrews). The Old Testament images of the Lessons are answered by sections of the Passion narratives in the responsories. The Old Testament finds its meaning in the Paschal sacrifice of Christ.

Ancient sources were used for the lectionary, the psalm collects and the responsories. This was done in order that the history of the Church's prayer become our prayer, and that we may be enriched by our inheritance of faith and life in the Roman tradition.

PRELUDE: Instrumental

Order of Service

The Celebrant and the ministers process in silence into the sanctuary.

LUCENARIUM: The Blessing of the Light

Priest: Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

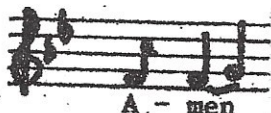
All Sing:



Thanks be to God.

Priest: Blessed be God our Father, for His holy Name which He planted in our hearts; and for the Life, Knowledge, Faith and Immortality which He has revealed to us, through Jesus His Son. Remember your Church, Holy Father, protect it from all evil, perfect it in your might, gather it from the four winds and bring it into your Kingdom; let grace come and this world pass away. Yours is the power and the glory, forever and ever.

People:

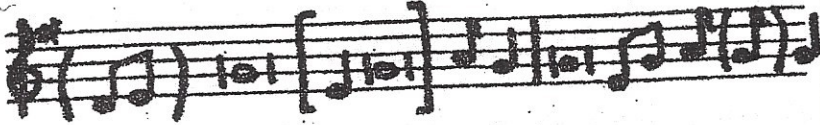


A - men

The First Nocturn

PSALM: Psalm 71

Antiphon: O my God, deliver me from the hand of the sinner.



In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me.

Be a rock where I can take refuge, (+)
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.

Free me from the hand of the wicked,
from the grip of the unjust, of the oppressor.

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.

On you I have leaned from my birth, (+)
from my mother's womb you have been
my help.
My hope has always been in you.

My fate has filled many with awe
but you are my strong refuge.

My lips are filled with your praise,
with your glory all the day long.

Do not reject me now that I am old;
when my strength fails do not forsake me.

For my enemies are speaking about me;
those who watch me take counsel together
saying:

'God has forsaken him; follow him,
seize him; there is no one to save him.'

O God, do not stay far off:
my God, make haste to help me!

Let them be put to shame and destroyed,
all those who seek my life.

Let them be covered with shame and confusion,
all those who seek to harm me.

But as for me, I will always hope
and praise you more and more.

My lips will tell of your justice (+)
and day by day of your help
(though I can never tell it all).

I will declare the Lord's mighty deeds
proclaiming your justice, yours alone.

O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still.

Now that I am old and grey-headed,
do not forsake me, God.

Let me tell of your power to all ages,
Praise your strength and justice to the skies,

tell of you who have worked such wonders.
O God, who is like you?

You have burdened me with bitter troubles
but you will give me back my life.

You will raise me from the depths of the earth;
you will exalt me and console me again.

So I will give you thanks on the lyre
for your faithful love, my God.

To you will I sing with the harp
to you, the Holy One of Israel.

When I sing to you my lips shall rejoice
and my soul, which you have redeemed.

And all the day long my tongue
shall tell the tale of your justice:

for they are put to shame and disgraced,
all those who seek to harm me.

(Pause for silent prayer.)

Psalm Collect:

*Do not forsake us, O Lord,
in the days of our youth and
throughout our old age and
decline. As your Church prays
to be enlivened in your grace
and freed from the pain of sin,
let us always sing your praises
in psalms and sacred song.*

LESSONS:

Lesson I: *Lamentations of Jeremiah*

Responsory I

Lesson II: *Lamentations of Jeremiah*

Responsory II

Lesson III: *Lamentations of Jeremiah*

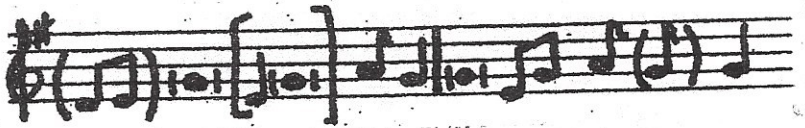
Responsory III

(A deep silence is kept for a time.)

The Second Nocturn

PSALM: Psalm 55

Antiphon: *Zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who blaspheme you
fall upon me.*



I tremble at the shouts of the foe,
at the cries of the wicked;

for they bring down evil upon me.
They assail me with fury.

My heart is stricken within me,
Death's terror is on me,

trembling and fear fall upon me
and horror overwhelms me.

O that I had wings like a dove
to fly away and be at rest.

So I would escape far away
and take refuge in the desert.

I would hasten to find shelter
from the raging wind, (+)
from the destructive storm, O Lord,
and from their plotting tongues.

For I can see nothing but violence
and strife in the city. (+)
Night and day they patrol
high on the city walls.

It is full of wickedness and evil; (+)
it is full of sin.
Its streets are never free
From tyranny and deceit.

If this had been done by an enemy (+)
I could bear his taunts.
If a rival had risen against me,
I could hide from him.

But it is you, my own companion,
my intimate friend!

(How close was the friendship between us)

We walked together in harmony
in the house of God.

May death fall suddenly upon them! (+)

Let them go to the grave:
for the wickedness dwells in their homes
and deep in their hearts.

As for me, I will cry to God
and the Lord will save me.

Evening, morning and at noon
I will cry and lament.

He will deliver my soul in peace
in the attack against me: (+)
for those who fight me are many,
but he hears my voice.

God will hear and will humble them,
the eternal judge: (+)
for they will not amend their ways.
They have no fear of God.

The traitor has turned against his friends;
he has broken his word.

His speech is softer than butter, (+)
but war is in his heart.
His words are smoother than oil,
but they are naked swords.

Entrust your cares to the Lord (+)
and he will support you.
He will never allow
the just man to stumble.

But you, O God, will bring them down
to the pit of death. (+)
Deceitful and bloodthirsty men
shall not live half their days.
O Lord, I will trust in you.

(Pause for silent prayer)

Psalm Collect: *Silence, O Lord, the noise of
the wicked; heed the cries of
sinners; grant rest and peace
to your servants. Mercifully
look upon us and listen to our
call as we rise together,
evening and morning, in praise
of you.*

LESSON:

From Treatise on Psalm 55, St. Augustine, Bishop

Responsory

(A deep silence is kept for a time)

The Third Nocturn

PSALM: Psalm 51

Antiphon: *God spared not his own Son, but
Delivered him up for us all.*



Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness,
in your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge (+)
O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may thrill.

From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,

That I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,

My sacrifice, a contrite spirit,
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favour to Zion;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with the lawful sacrifice, (+)
(burnt offerings wholly consumed),
then you will be offered young bulls
on your altar.

(Pause for silent prayer)

Psalm Collect: *Cast us not away from your
presence, God our Father, but
obtain for us freedom from our
sins. Restore to us the joy
of Salvation and uphold us in
your true and Holy Spirit.*

LESSONS:

Lesson I: Heb. 4:11—5:10

Responsory I

Priest: The wicked man betrayed Jesus to the
chief priests and the elders of the people

ALL: But Peter followed him at a distance,
to see the end.

Priest: And they led him away to Caiphas the chief priest, where the scribes and Pharisees had gathered together.

All: But Peter was following at a distance to see the end.

Lesson II: Heb. 9:11-22

Responsory II

Priest: The Kings of the earth rose up, and the princes conspired together.

All: Against the Lord, and against his anointed.

Priest: Why were the nations in tumult, and why did the people imagine a vain thing?

All: Against the Lord, and against his anointed.

(A deep silence is kept for a time)

THE BENEDICTUS:

Antiphon: And the betrayer gave them a sign, saying: "Whomever I shall kiss, he it is, take him into custody."



Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
He has come to 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.

THE FINAL RESPONSORY:

- Celebrant: In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear (Heb. 5:7)
- Priest: Lord, have mercy on us.
Schola: Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Lord, have mercy on us.
Schola: Have mercy Lord. Christ Jesus our Lord, became obedient unto death. He who was to suffer for us.
- People: Christ, have mercy on us.
Schola: With his arms outstretched upon the cross has drawn all ages to himself.
- People: Christ, have mercy on us.
Schola: Who said in prophecy: "O Death, I will be your death."
- People: Christ, have mercy on us.
Cantor: Lord, have mercy on us.
Schola: Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Lord, have mercy on us.
- Celebrant: Look favorably, O Lord, upon this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ did not hesitate to be delivered into the hands of the wicked and to suffer the agony of the Cross.

***All kneel and sporadically extinguish their candles.
The Christ candle is then taken away.***

Christus Factus Est

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem. Mortem autem crucis.

*(Christ became obedient for us unto death,
even to death on a cross,)*

*In the darkness, the Strepitus is heard.
When the Christ candle returns, the Celebrant continues:*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Celebrant: Let us silently pray the Lord's Prayer.

All reverence the altar and leave in silence.