

The Office of Tenebræ

The name Tenebræ (the Latin word for darkness or shadows) has traditionally been given 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. Apart from the chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah, in which each verse is introduced by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church to signify the darkness that overshadowed the earth at Christ's crucifixion. The loud noise, or *strepitus*, at the conclusion of the service suggests the earthquake described in the Passion narratives. The single candle left burning is the symbol and promise of Christ's triumph over death and darkness.

ENTRANCE *PLEASE RISE AS THE BELLS ARE RUNG*

Pange lingua gloriosi
Mode I

Sing, my tongue, the Savior's glory; tell His triumph far and wide;
tell aloud the famous story of His body crucified;
how upon the cross a victim, vanquishing in death, He died.

Thus did Christ to perfect manhood in our mortal flesh attain:
then of His free choice He goeth to a death of bitter pain;
and as a lamb, upon the altar of the cross, for us is slain.

Lo, with gall His thirst He quenches! see the thorns upon His brow!
nails His tender flesh are rending! see His side is opened now!
whence, to cleanse the whole creation, streams of blood and water flow.

Lofty tree, bend down thy branches, to embrace thy sacred load;
oh, relax the native tension of that all too rigid wood;
gently, gently bear the members of thy dying King and God.

Tree, which solely wast found worthy the world's Victim to sustain.
harbor from the raging tempest! ark, that saved the world again!
Tree, with sacred blood anointed of the Lamb for sinners slain.

Venantius Fortunatus (530–609); translated by Fr. Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

VERSE

Presider: *ALL:*



O God, + come to my as-sist-ance. Lord, make haste to help me.


Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

PSALM 68 *PLEASE BE SEATED*

Salvum me fac
chant

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

Response 
In your great love, O Lord, an - swer me.


The cantor repeats the antiphon in Latin.

Psalm Prayer

PSALM 69 *PLEASE BE SEATED*

Deus, in adjutorium
chant

Antiphon Let them draw back and be disgraced who take pleasure in my misfortune.

Response 
O Lord, come to my aid.

The cantor repeats the antiphon in Latin.

Psalm Prayer

PSALM 70 *PLEASE BE SEATED*

In te, Domine speravi
chant

Antiphon Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the ungodly.

Response 
In you, O Lord, I take ref - uge.

The cantor repeats the antiphon in Latin.

Psalm Prayer

LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH *PLEASE BE SEATED*

LESSON 1

Jeremiah 1:1-2
Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)

Here begin the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet.

ALEPH. How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become,
she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the cities has become a vassal.
BETH. She weeps bitterly in the night, tears on 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.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the LORD your God.

LESSON 2

Jeremiah 1:6-9
chant

VAU. From daughter Zion has gone all her glory: Her princes have become like rams that find no pasture.
They have gone off exhausted before their pursuers.
ZAIN. Jerusalem remembers in days of wretched homelessness,
All the precious things she once had in days gone by.

But when her people fell into the hands of the foe, and she had no help,
Her foes looked on and laughed at her collapse.
HETH. Jerusalem has sinned grievously, therefore she has become a mockery; Those who honored her
now demean her, for they saw her nakedness; She herself groans out loud, and turns away.

TETH. Her uncleanness is on her skirt; she has no thought of her future.
Her downfall is astonishing, with no one to comfort her.
“Look, O LORD, at my misery; how the enemy triumphs!”
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, turn to the LORD your God.

LESSON 3

Jeremiah 1:3-5
Thomas Tallis

From the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet.
GHIMEL. Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude;
she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.
DALETH. The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the appointed feasts;
all her gates are desolate, her priests groan;
her maidens have been dragged away, and she herself suffers bitterly.
HE. Her foes have become the head, her enemies prosper, because the LORD has made her suffer
for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the LORD your God.

RESPONSORY

Vinea mea electa
Francis Poulenc (1890–1963)

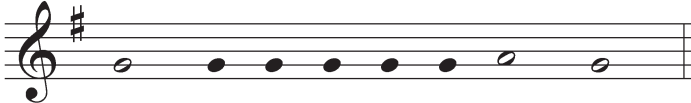
You are my chosen vine and by my hand you were planted;
how then have you become bitter?
You have crucified me and set Barabbas free.
I guarded you with a hedge, I removed the stones from around you,
I built a tower to watch over you.

A collection is taken during the Responsory. Thank you for your generosity.

PSALM 51

Miserere mei, Deus
Gregorio Allegri (1582–1652)

Antiphon You may be justified when you give sentence,
and be without reproach when you judge.

Response 
Mi - se - re - re me - i De - us.

Have mercy on me, God.

The cantor repeats the antiphon in Latin.

Psalm Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH *PLEASE REMAIN STANDING*

Benedictus Dominus
chant

Antiphon The traitor had given them a sign: The one I kiss is the one.
 Take hold of him.

Canticle

The cantor repeats the antiphon in Latin.

ANTIPHON *PLEASE KNEEL*

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

Christ became obedient for us even to death, death on the cross.

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER

The strepitus sounds in the darkness.

*Please remain kneeling until the lighted candle, representing the light of the risen Christ, returns
before departing in silence.*

Acknowledgements

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan, *Pastor of St. James Cathedral, Presider*

Joseph Adam, *Director of Music & Cathedral Organist*

The Cathedral Cantorei

Peter Burns, *Sacristan* | Celeste McDonell, Maria Laughlin, Corinna Laughlin, Jeff Morris *Servers*