



# **TENEBRAE**

**with Responsories by  
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**WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL  
HOLY WEEK 2022**

## Tenebrae

The service of Tenebrae takes its name from the Latin word for ‘darkness’ or ‘shadows.’ Although often marked on Maundy Thursday, over time it has had a remarkably varied content and has been celebrated variously on other days in Holy Week. What is consistent in Tenebrae is its solemnity: reflection on the searing events of Holy Week—in readings from the Gospels, psalmody, music and silence. This evening, Tenebrae forms part of the Watch—the vigil of prayer kept before the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Repose.

The most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, considered a symbol of Our Lord, remains.

This evening we are following another very long standing tradition of Tenebrae as we reflect on Jesus’ great emotional and physical pain. Toward the end of the service, the ‘Christ candle’ is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good.

At the end, a loud noise is made (the strepitus), symbolizing the earthquakes at the time of his death and his resurrection. At the moment of the first earthquake, the temple veil was torn apart, exposing the Holy of Holies to public view. Jesus’ death made possible direct access to God, no longer requiring the ceremonial acts of the priests for our forgiveness of sin. Although the readings this evening are from St John’s Gospel, it is St Matthew who records the earthquakes. The sudden noise brings these events to mind with particular force without the need for words. The hidden candle is then restored to its place, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. By this single light we all depart in silence.

*The choir and the minister enter in silence.*

# The Archbishop's Address

*Before the Office of Tenebrae, the Archbishop of York gives the third of his Holy Week addresses.*

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## The Office of Tenebrae

### I Jesus goes to Gethsemane

#### Reading

After they had eaten the supper, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

JOHN 18.1-2

*Silence is kept.*

#### Verses from Psalm 69

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up, even to my neck.

**Let not the water flood drown me, neither the deep swallow me up;  
let not the Pit shut its mouth upon me.**

Draw near to my soul and redeem me; deliver me because of my enemies.

**You know my reproach, my shame and my dishonour;  
my adversaries are all in your sight.**

Reproach has broken my heart; I am full of heaviness.

**I looked for some to have pity, but there was no one,  
neither found I any to comfort me.**

*The first candle is extinguished.*

*The choir sings:*

Amicus meus osculi me tradidit signo:  
quem osculatus fuero, ipse est,  
tenete eum: hoc malum fecit signum,  
qui per osculum ad implevit homicidium.

*The sign by which my friend betrayed me was  
a kiss: whom shall I kiss, that is he:  
hold him fast: he that committed murder by a  
kiss gave this wicked sign.*

Infelix praetermisit pretium sanguinis,  
et in fine laquaeo se suspendit.  
Bonum erat illi,  
si natus non fuisset homo ille.

*The unhappy wretch returned the price of  
blood, and in the end hanged himself.  
It had been good for that man  
if he had never been born.*

*The second candle is extinguished.*

*Silence is kept.*

## II The betrayer approaches

### Reading

After they had eaten the supper, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

JOHN 18.3

*Silence is kept.*

### Verses from Psalm 55

Hear my prayer, O God; hide not yourself from my petition.  
**Give heed to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaining.**

I am alarmed at the voice of the enemy and at the clamour of the wicked;  
**For they would bring down evil upon me and are set against me in fury.**

My heart is disquieted within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.  
**Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me,  
and a horrible dread has overwhelmed me.**

*The third candle is extinguished.*

*The choir sings:*

Unus ex discipulis meis tradet me hodie:  
Vae illi per quem tradar ego:  
Melius illi erat,  
si natus non fuisset.

*One of my disciples will this day betray me.  
Woe to him by whom I am betrayed:  
It would have been better for him  
if he had never been born.*

Qui intingit mecum in paropside,  
hic me traditurus est  
in manus peccatorum.

*He that dips his hand with me in the dish,  
is the man that will deliver me  
into the hands of sinners.*

*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence is kept.*

# III Jesus is betrayed

## Reading

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he,' they stepped back and fell to the ground.

JOHN 18.4-6

*Silence is kept.*

## Verses from Psalm 55

For it was not an open enemy that reviled me, for then I could have borne it;  
**Nor was it my adversary that puffed himself up against me,  
for then I would have hid myself from him.**

But it was even you, one like myself, my companion and my own familiar friend.  
**We took sweet counsel together  
and walked with the multitude in the house of God.**

My companion stretched out his hands against his friend  
and has broken his covenant;  
**His speech was softer than butter, though war was in his heart;  
his words were smoother than oil, yet are they naked swords.**

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

*The choir sings:*

Eram quasi agnus innocens,  
ductus sum ad immolandum, et nesciebam:  
concilium fecerunt inimici mei adversum me,  
dicentés:  
Venite, mittamus lignum in panem ejus,  
et eradamus eum de terra viventium.

*I was like an innocent lamb;  
I was led to be sacrificed and I knew it not:  
my enemies conspired against me,  
saying:  
Come, let us put wood into his bread,  
and root him out of the land of the living.*

Omnes inimici mei adversum me cogitabant  
mala mihi: verbum iniquum mandaverunt  
adversum me dicentes:  
Venite . . .

*All my enemies contrived mischief against  
me, they uttered evil speech against me,  
saying:  
Come . . .*

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence is kept.*

## IV None shall be lost

### Reading

Again Jesus asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.'

JOHN 18.7-9

*Silence is kept.*

### Verses from Psalm 31

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours,  
**an object of dread to my acquaintances;**  
**when they see me in the street they flee from me.**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is on every side;  
**they scheme together against me, and plot to take my life.**

But my trust is in you, O Lord. I have said, 'You are my God.  
**My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies,**  
**and from those who persecute me.**

*The seventh candle is extinguished.*

*The choir sings:*

Seniores populi consilium fecerunt  
Ut Jesum dolo tenerent et occiderent.  
Cum gladiis et fustibus exierunt tamquam  
ad latronem.

*The elders of the people discussed  
how they might by craft apprehend Jesus and  
kill him. They came out with swords and  
clubs as against a robber.*

Collegerunt pontifices et pharisaei  
concilium.

*Then the chief priests and the Pharisees  
gathered a council.*

*The eighth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence is kept.*



# V Peter's defiance

## Reading

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

JOHN 18.10-11

*Silence is kept.*

## Verses from Psalms 54 and 69

Save me, O God, by your name and vindicate me by your power.  
**Hear my prayer, O God; give heed to the words of my mouth.**

For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless seek after my life;  
**they have not set God before them.**

Those who hate me without any cause are more than the hairs of my head;  
**those who would destroy me are mighty.**

*The ninth candle is extinguished.*

*The choir sings:*

O vos omnes qui transitis per viam:  
attendite et videte si est dolor sicut dolor  
meus.

*O all ye that pass by the way,  
attend and see if there be any sorrow like to  
my sorrow.*

Attendite, universi populi,  
et videte dolorem meum.  
Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.

*Attend, all ye people,  
and see my sorrow:  
if there be any sorrow like to my sorrow.*

*The tenth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence is kept.*

## VI Jesus is arrested

### Reading

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

JOHN 18.12

*Silence is kept.*

### Verses from Psalms 31

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
**deliver me in your righteousness;**  
**incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,  
**for you are my rock and my stronghold;**  
**guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.**

Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me,  
for you are my strength.  
**Into your hands I commend my spirit,**  
**for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.**

*The eleventh candle is extinguished.*

*The choir sings:*

Incipit lamentatio Jeremiae prophetae.

*Here begins the Lamentation of Jeremiah the Prophet.*

ALEPH.

*ALEPH.*

Quomodo sedet sola civitas plena populo!

*How lonely sits the city that was full of people!*

Facta est quasi vidua domina gentium;  
princeps provinciarum facta est sub  
tributo.

*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. Plorans ploravit in nocte, et  
lacrimæ ejus in maxillis ejus.

*BETH. She weeps bitterly in the night, tears  
on her cheeks.*

Jerusalem, convertere ad Dominum Deum  
tuum. *Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.*

*The twelfth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence is kept.*

## **Streptus**

*The Christ candle is replaced on the Altar.*

*The congregation scatters and leaves in silence.*

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