



Tenebrae

**A Meditation on the Passion and Death
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**



Tenebrae was the medieval Office of Matins sung on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week. Tenebrae is the Latin word for darkness. In this adaptation as we listen to the story of the last hours of Jesus' life candles are extinguished to symbolize the enveloping darkness. The singing of plainsong and moments of silence mark the solemnity of the occasion and in response we find our voice in song and prayer.

Hymn 440 *Christ is the World's light*

God is light,
in whom there is no darkness at all.

All: *Jesus Christ is the light of the world.*

This is the judgement: light has come into the world,

All: *but the people loved darkness rather than light.*

Reading: John 18.1–11 Jesus is arrested



Ps 59.1-5

- 1 Rescue me from my enemies, O my God; ♦
set me high above those that rise up against me.
- 2 Save me from the evildoers ♦
and from murderous foes deliver me.
- 3 For see how they lie in wait for my soul ♦
and the mighty stir up trouble against me.
- 4 Not for any fault or sin of mine, O Lord; ♦
for no offence, they run and prepare themselves for war.
- 5 Rouse yourself, come to my aid and see; ♦
for you are the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel.

Hymn 63 *My song is love unknown* (omit * vv)

Reading: John 18: 12–27 *Peter disowns Jesus*



Ps 31.11-13

- 11 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.
- 12 I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind; ♦
I have become like a broken vessel.
- 13 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.

Reading: John 18: 28–40 *Jesus before Pilate*



Chant: *Behold the Lamb of God*

Behold the Lamb of God
Behold the Lamb of God
He takes away the sin
The sin of the world.

Reading: John 19:1–16a *Jesus is handed over*



Psalm 71: 9-12

- 9 Do not cast me away in the time of old age; ♦
forsake me not when my strength fails.
- 10 For my enemies are talking against me, ♦
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.
- 11 They say, 'God has forsaken him;
pursue him and take him, ♦
because there is none to deliver him.'
- 12 O God, be not far from me; ♦
come quickly to help me, O my God.



Hymn 68 *O sacred head*

Reading: John 19: 16b–22 *Jesus is taken to the Place of the Skull*



Psalm 25: 16-21

- 16 The sorrows of my heart have increased; ♦
O bring me out of my distress.
- 17 Look upon my adversity and misery ♦
and forgive me all my sin.
- 18 Look upon my enemies, for they are many ♦
and they bear a violent hatred against me.
- 19 O keep my soul and deliver me; ♦
let me not be put to shame, for I have put my trust in you.
- 20 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, ♦
for my hope has been in you.
- 21 Deliver Israel, O God, ♦
out of all his troubles.



Reading: John 19: 23–30 *Jesus is crucified*



Psalm 22: 11-16

- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand ♦
and there is none to help.
- 12 Mighty oxen come around me; ♦
fat bulls of Bashan close me in on every side.
- 13 They gape upon me with their mouths, ♦
as it were a ramping and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; ♦
my heart has become like wax
melting in the depths of my body.
- 15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd;
my tongue cleaves to my gums; ♦
you have laid me in the dust of death.
- 16 For the hounds are all about me,
the pack of evildoers close in on me; ♦
they pierce my hands and my feet.

Hymn 70 *It is a thing most wonderful* (omit * vv)

Reading: John 19: 31-37

Jesus is taken down from the cross



Psalm 88.3–6

- 3 For my soul is full of troubles; ♦
my life draws near to the land of death.
- 4 I am counted as one gone down to the Pit; ♦
I am like one that has no strength,
- 5 Lost among the dead, ♦
like the slain who lie in the grave,
- 6 Whom you remember no more, ♦
for they are cut off from your hand.

Hymn 12 *God, that madest earth and heaven*

Prayers

Father, we thank you,
All and praise your holy name.

Reading: John 19.38–42 Jesus is buried



Silence is kept

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy) (Byrd, from 4-part Mass)

Psalm 16: 7-11

- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, □
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; □
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; □
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, □
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy □
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The congregation is invited to leave quietly.