



# **THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE**

**A Vigil Service of Prayer  
amid the descending and darkening shadows**

---

**The Offices of Matins and Lauds of the Sacred Triduum  
appointed to be said or sung on the night of  
Spy Wednesday in Holy Week**



---

---

**THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK**  
**Old Roman Catholic Church**

---

---

# IMPRIMATUR

✠ **EDWARD JAMES FORD, T.O.R., S.T.D.**

*Metropolitan-Primate*

North American Old Roman Catholic Church

16 April 2012

The Feast of the Profession of St Francis of Assisi

Springvale, Maine

**THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE FOR  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
Sung on the Night of Spy Wednesday**

*The sanctuary is prepared in the usual manner. The 15 candle Tenebrae Hearse is set in the sanctuary on the epistle side, the candles lighted, as are also the six High Mass candles. The lower 14 candles are extinguished individually one by one after the recitation of each of the 14 Psalms of Matins and Lauds as indicated herein. The six High Mass candles are extinguished during the Benedictus.*

*The Clergy and ministers, vested in cassock and surplice or religious habit, enter the sanctuary in silence, proceed to their places, kneel and silently say the following prayers of preparation after which they take their seats to await the beginning of the office.*

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## HERE BEGINS THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE

*The Office opens immediately with the Antiphon of the first Psalm of Tenebrae.*

## MATINS

### The First Nocturn

**ANT. 1** The zeal of thy house † hath eaten me up : and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

### PSALM 68

SAVE me, O God : for the waters are come in even unto my soul.

I stick fast in the mire of the deep : and there is no sure standing.

I am come into the depth of the sea : and a tempest hath overwhelmed me.

I have labored with crying; my jaws are become hoarse : my eyes have failed, whilst I hope in my God.

They are multiplied above the hairs of my head : who hate me without cause.

My enemies are grown strong who have wrongfully persecuted me : then did I pay that which I took not away.

O God, thou knowest my foolishness : and my offences are not hidden from thee.

Let not them be ashamed for me : who look for thee, O Lord, the Lord of hosts.

Let them not be confounded on my account : who seek thee, O God of Israel.

Because for thy sake I have borne reproach : shame hath covered my face.

I am become a stranger to my brethren : and an alien to the sons of my mother.

For the zeal of thy house hath eaten me up : and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

And I covered my soul in fasting : and it was made a reproach to me.

And I made haircloth my garment : and I became a byword to them.

They that sat in the gate spoke against me : and they that drank wine made me their song.

But as for me, my prayer is to thee, O Lord : for the time of thy good pleasure, O God.

In the multitude of thy mercy hear me : in the truth of thy salvation.

Draw me out of the mire, that I may not stick fast : deliver me from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.

Let not the tempest of water drown me, nor the deep swallow me up : and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

Hear me, O Lord, for thy mercy is kind : look upon me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

And turn not away thy face from thy servant : for I am in trouble, hear me speedily.

Attend to my soul, and deliver it : save me because of my enemies.

Thou knowest my reproach, and my confusion : and my shame.

In thy sight are all they that afflict me : my heart hath expected reproach and misery.

And I looked for one that would grieve together with me, but there was none : and for one that would comfort me, and I found none.

And they gave me gall for my food : and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let their table become as a snare before them : and a recompense, and a stumbling block.

Let their eyes be darkened that they see not : and their back bend thou down always.

Pour out thy indignation upon them : and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them.

Let their habitation be made desolate : and let there be none to dwell in their tabernacles.

Because they have persecuted him whom thou hast smitten : and they have added to the grief of my wounds.

Add thou iniquity upon their iniquity : and let them not come into thy justice

Let them be blotted out of the book of the living : and with the just let them not be written.

But I am poor and sorrowful : thy salvation, O God, hath set me up.

I will praise the name of God with a canticle : and I will magnify him with praise.

And it shall please God better than a young calf : that bringeth forth horns and hoofs.

Let the poor see and rejoice : seek ye God, and your soul shall live.

For the Lord hath heard the poor : and hath not despised his prisoners.

Let the heavens and the earth praise him : the sea, and everything that creepeth therein.

For God will save Sion : and the cities of Juda shall be built up.

And they shall dwell there : and acquire it by inheritance.

And the seed of his servants shall possess it : and they that love his name shall dwell therein.

**ANT. 1** The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up : and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.



**ANT. 2** Let them be turned backward † and blush for shame that desire evils unto me.

## **PSALM 69**

O God, come to my assistance : O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let them be confounded and ashamed : that seek my soul.



Let them be turned backward and blush for shame : that desire evils unto me:

Let them be presently turned away blushing for shame : that say to me: 'Tis well, 'tis well.

Let all that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee : and let such as love thy salvation say always, The Lord be magnified.

But I am needy and poor : O God, help me.

Thou art my helper and my deliverer : O Lord, make no delay.

**ANT. 2** Let them be turned backward and blush for shame : that desire evils unto me.



**ANT. 3** Deliver me, † O my God, out of the hand of the sinner.

## **PSALM 70**

In thee, O Lord, I have hoped, let me never be put to confusion : deliver me in thy justice, and rescue me.

Incline thy ear unto me : and save me.

Be thou unto me a God, a protector, and a place of strength : that thou mayest make me safe.

For thou art my firmament : and my refuge.

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the sinner : and out of the hand of the transgressor of the law and of the unjust.

For thou art my patience, O Lord : my hope, O Lord, from my youth;

By thee have I been confirmed from the womb : from my mother's womb thou art my protector.

Of thee shall I continually sing : I am become unto many as a wonder, but thou art a strong helper.

Let my mouth be filled with praise, that I may sing thy glory : thy greatness all the day long.

Cast me not off in the time of old age : when my strength shall fail, do not thou forsake me.

For my enemies have spoken against me : and they that watched my soul have consulted together,

Saying, God hath forsaken him, pursue and take him : for there is none to deliver him.

O God, be not thou far from me : O my God, make haste to my help.

Let them be confounded and come to nothing that detract my soul : let them be covered with confusion and shame that seek my hurt.

But I will always hope : and will add to all thy praise.

My mouth shall show forth thy justice : thy salvation all the day long.

Because I have not known learning, I will enter into the powers of the Lord : O Lord, I will be mindful of thy justice alone.

Thou hast taught me, O God, from my youth : and till now I will declare thy wonderful works.

And unto old age and grey hairs : O God, forsake me not.

Until I show forth thy arm : to all the generation that is to come.

Thy power and thy justice, O God, even to the highest great things thou hast done : O God, who is like to thee?

How great troubles hast thou shown me, many and grievous: and turning thou hast brought me to life : and hast brought me back again from the depths of the earth.

Thou hast multiplied thy magnificence : and turning to me thou hast comforted me.

For I will also confess to thee thy truth with the instruments of psaltery : O God, I will sing to thee with the harp, thou holy one of Israel.

My lips shall greatly rejoice, when I shall sing to thee : and my soul which thou hast redeemed.

Yea and my tongue shall meditate on thy justice all the day : when they shall be confounded and put to shame that seek evil against me.

**ANT. 3** Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the sinner.



**V.** Let them be turned back and put to shame.

**R. That intend evil against me.**

*Recite the Our Father (silently)*

**INCIPIIT OF THE LAMENTATIONS OF  
JEREMIADS THE PROPHET**  
*Lamentations of Jeremias 1: 1-14*

**First Lesson**

***Aleph.*** How doth the city sit solitary that was full of people! how is the mistress of the Gentiles become as a widow: the princes of provinces made tributary!

***Beth.*** Weeping she hath wept in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: there is none to comfort her among all them that were dear to her: all her friends have despised her, and are become her enemies.

***Ghimel.*** Juda hath removed her dwelling place because of her affliction, and the greatness of her bondage: she hath dwelt among the nations, and she hath found no rest: all her persecutors have taken her in the midst of straits.

***Daleth.*** The ways of Sion mourn, because there are none that come to the solemn feast: all her gates are broken down: her priests sigh: her virgins are in affliction, and she is oppressed with bitterness.

***He.*** Her adversaries are become her lords, her enemies are enriched: because the Lord hath spoken against her for the multitude of her iniquities: her children are led into captivity: before the face of the oppressor.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem. Return unto the Lord thy God.

*Responsory: In Monte Oliveti*

**R.** On Mount Olivet, He prayed to His Father, Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: \* The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.

**V.** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. \* The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.

**Second Lesson**

**Vau.** And from the daughter of Sion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like rams that find no pastures: and they are gone away without strength before the face of the pursuer.

**Zain.** Jerusalem hath remembered the days of her affliction, and prevarication of all her desirable things which she had from the days of old, when her people fell in the enemy's hand, and there was no helper: the enemies have seen her, and have mocked at her sabbaths.

**Heth.** Jerusalem hath grievously sinned, therefore is she become unstable: all that honored her have despised her, because they have seen her shame: but she sighed and turned backward.

**Teth.** Her filthiness is on her feet, and she hath not remembered her end: she is wonderfully cast down, not having a comforter: behold, O Lord, my affliction, because the enemy is lifted up.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem. Return unto the Lord thy God.

*Responsory: Tristis es anima mea*

**R.** My soul is sorrowful even unto death: stay here and watch with Me: now shall ye see the crowd that shall surround Me: \* Ye shall take flight, and I shall go to be offered up for you.

**V.** Behold, the time draweth nigh, and the Son of Man shall be delivered into the hands of sinners. \* Ye shall take flight, and I shall go to be offered up for you.

**Third Lesson**

**Jod.** The enemy hath put out his hand to all her desirable things: for she hath seen the Gentiles enter into her sanctuary, of whom thou gavest commandment that they should not enter into thy church.

**Caph.** All her people sigh, they seek bread: they have given all their precious things for food to relieve the soul: see, O Lord, and consider, for I am become vile.

**Lamed.** O all ye that pass by the way, attend, and see if there be any sorrow like to my sorrow: for he hath made a vintage of me, as the Lord spoke in the day of his fierce anger.

**Mem.** From above he hath sent fire into my bones, and hath chastised me: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate, wasted with sorrow all the day long.

**Nun.** The yoke of my iniquities hath watched: they are folded together in his hand, and put upon my neck: my

strength is weakened: the Lord hath delivered me into a hand out of which I am not able to rise.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem. Return unto the Lord thy God.

***Responsory: Ecce vidimus eum***

**R.** Lo, we have seen Him without comeliness or beauty: His look is gone from Him: He hath borne our sins and suffered for us: He was wounded for our iniquities: \* By His stripes we are healed.

**V.** Truly He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows. \* By His stripes we are healed.

**R.** Lo, we have seen Him without comeliness or beauty: His look is gone from Him: He hath borne our sins and suffered for us: He was wounded for our iniquities: \* By His stripes we are healed.



## The Second Nocturn

**ANT. 1** The kings of the earth † stood up, and the princes met together, against the Lord and against his Christ.

### PSALM 2

Why have the Gentiles raged : and the people devised vain things?

The kings of the earth stood up, and the princes met together : against the Lord and against his Christ.

Let us break their bonds asunder : and let us cast away their yoke from us.

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh at them : and the Lord shall deride them.

Then shall he speak to them in his anger : and trouble them in his rage.

But I am appointed king by him over Sion his holy mountain : preaching his commandment.

The Lord hath said to me : Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.

Ask of me, and I will give thee the Gentiles for thy inheritance : and the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Thou shalt rule them with a rod of iron : and shalt break them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

And now, O ye kings, understand : receive instruction, you that judge the earth.

Serve ye the Lord with fear : and rejoice unto him with trembling.

Embrace discipline, lest at any time the Lord be angry : and you perish from the just way.

When his wrath shall be kindled in a short time : blessed are all they that trust in him.

**ANT. 1** The kings of the earth stood up, and the princes met together, against the Lord and against his Christ.



**ANT. 2** They parted my garments † amongst them and upon my vesture they cast lots.

## **PSALM 21**

O God my God, look upon me : why hast thou forsaken me? : Far from my salvation are the words of my sins.

O my God, I shall cry by day, and thou wilt not hear : and by night, and it shall not be reputed as folly in me.

But thou dwellest in the holy place : the praise of Israel.

In thee have our fathers hoped : they have hoped, and thou hast delivered them.

They cried to thee, and they were saved : they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

But I am a worm, and no man : the reproach of men, and the outcast of the people.

All they that saw me have laughed me to scorn : they have spoken with the lips, and wagged the head.

He hoped in the Lord, let him deliver him : let him save him, seeing he delighteth in him.

For thou art he that hast drawn me out of the womb : my hope from the breasts of my mother.

I was cast upon thee from the womb : From my mother's womb thou art my God.

Depart not from me, for tribulation is very near : for there is none to help me.

Many calves have surrounded me : fat bulls have besieged me.

They have opened their mouths against me : as a lion ravening and roaring.

I am poured out like water and all my bones are scattered : My heart is become like wax melting in the midst of my bowels.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue hath cleaved to my jaws : and thou hast brought me down into the dust of death.

For many dogs have encompassed me : the council of the malignant hath besieged me.

They have dug my hands and feet : They have numbered all my bones.

And they have looked and stared upon me. They parted my garments amongst them : and upon my vesture they cast lots.

But thou, O Lord, remove not thy help to a distance from me : look towards my defense.

Deliver, O God, my soul from the sword : my only one from the hand of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth : and my lowness from the horns of the unicorns.

I will declare thy name to my brethren : in the midst of the church will I praise thee.

Ye that fear the Lord, praise him : all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him.

Let all the seed of Israel fear him: because he hath not slighted nor despised the supplication of the poor man.

Neither hath he turned away his face from me : and when I cried to him he heard me.

With thee is my praise in a great church : I will pay my vows in the sight of them that fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall be filled, and they shall praise the Lord that seek him : their hearts shall live for ever and ever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember, and shall be converted to the Lord : And all the kindreds of the Gentiles shall adore in his sight.

For the kingdom is the Lord's : and he shall have dominion over the nations.

All the fat ones of the earth have eaten and have adored : all they that go down to the earth shall fall before him.

And to him my soul shall live : and my seed shall serve him.

There shall be declared to the Lord a generation to come : and the heavens shall show forth his justice to a people that shall be born, which the Lord hath made.

**ANT. 2** They parted my garments amongst them and upon my vesture they cast lots.



**ANT. 3** Unjust witnesses † have risen up against me; and iniquity hath lied to itself.

## **PSALM 26**

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? : The Lord is the protector of my life of whom shall I be afraid?

Whilst the wicked draw near against me, to eat my flesh : My enemies that trouble me, have themselves been weakened, and have fallen.

If armies in camp should stand together against me, my heart shall not fear : If a battle should rise up against me, in this will I be confident.

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this will I seek after : that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

That I may see the delight of the Lord : and may visit his temple.

For he hath hidden me in his tabernacle : in the day of evils, he hath protected me in the secret place of his tabernacle.

He hath exalted me upon a rock : and now he hath lifted up my head above my enemies.

I have gone round and have offered up in his tabernacle a sacrifice of jubilation : I will sing, and recite a psalm to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, my voice, with which I have cried to thee : have mercy on me and hear me.

My heart hath said to thee : My face hath sought thee, thy face, O Lord, will I still seek.

Turn not away thy face from me : decline not in thy wrath from thy servant.

Be thou my helper, forsake me not : do not thou despise me, O God my Savior.

For my father and my mother have left me : but the Lord hath taken me up.

Set me, O Lord, a law in thy way : and guide me in the right path, because of my enemies.

Deliver me not over to the will of them that trouble me :  
for unjust witnesses have risen up against me, and  
iniquity hath lied to itself.

I believe to see the good things of the Lord : in the land  
of the living.

Expect the Lord, do manfully : and let thy heart take  
courage, and wait thou for the Lord.

**ANT. 3** Unjust witnesses have risen up against me; and  
iniquity hath lied to itself.



**V.** They parted my garments amongst them.

**R. And upon my vesture they cast lots.**

*Recite the Our Father (silently)*



**A READING FROM THE TREATISE OF  
SAINT AUGUSTINE THE BISHOP ON THE PSALMS**  
*On Psalm 54*

**Fourth Lesson**

*"Hear my prayer, O God; do not hide yourself from my petition. Listen to me and answer me. I mourn in my trial and am troubled."* These are the words of one disquieted, in trouble and anxiety. He prays under much suffering, desiring to be delivered from evil. Let us now see under what evil he lies; and when he begins to speak, let us place ourselves beside him, that, by sharing his tribulation, we may also join in his prayer. *"I mourn in my trial,"* he says, *"and am troubled."* When does he mourn? When is he troubled? He says, *"In my trial."* He has in mind the wicked who cause him suffering, and he calls this suffering his "trial." Do not think that the evil are in the world for no purpose, and that God makes no good use of them. Every wicked person lives either that he may be corrected, or that through him the righteous may be tried and tested.

***Responsory: Tamquam ad latronem***

**R.** Ye are come as against a thief, with swords and clubs to take me: \* I was daily with you, in the temple teaching, and ye held me not; and lo: even after I have been scourged, ye lead me to be crucified.

**V.** And when they had laid hands on Jesus and taken him, he said to them: \* I was daily with you, in the temple teaching, and ye held me not.

## Fifth Lesson

Would that those who now test us were converted and tried with us; yet though they continue to try us, let us not hate them, for we do not know whether any of them will persist to the end in their evil ways. And most of the time, when you think you are hating your enemy, you are hating your brother without knowing it. Only the devil and his angels are shown to us in the Holy Scriptures as doomed to eternal fire. It is only their amendment that is hopeless, and against them we wage a hidden battle. For this battle the Apostle arms us, saying, "*We are not contending against flesh and blood,*" that is, not against human beings whom we see, "*but against the principalities, against the powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world.*" So that you may not think that demons are the rulers of heaven and earth, he says, "*of the darkness of this world.*" He says, "of the world," meaning the lovers of the world -- of the "world," meaning the ungodly and wicked -- the "world" of which the Gospel says, "And the world knew him not."

### *Responsory: Tenebrae factae sunt*

**R.** Darkness covered the earth whilst the Jews crucified Jesus: and about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? \*  
And bowing his head he gave up the ghost.

**V.** Jesus crying with a loud voice, said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. \* And bowing his head he gave up the ghost.

## Sixth Lesson

*"For I have seen unrighteousness and strife in the city."*  
See the glory of the cross itself. On the brow of kings that cross is now placed, the cross which enemies once mocked. Its power is shown in the result. He has conquered the world, not by steel, but by wood. The wood of the cross seemed a fitting object of scorn to his enemies, and standing before that wood they wagged their heads, saying, *"If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."* He stretched out his hands to an unbelieving and rebellious people. If one is just who lives by faith, one who does not have faith is unrighteous. Therefore when he says "unrighteousness," understand that it is unbelief. The Lord then saw unrighteousness and strife in the city, and stretched out his hands to an unbelieving and rebellious people. And yet, looking upon them, he said, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

### *Responsory: Ecce quomodo moritur*

**R.** Behold how the Just dieth, and none taketh it to heart: and just men are taken off and no considereth. The Just is taken away from the face of iniquity: \* and his memory shall be in peace.

**V.** He was dumb like the lamb before his shearer, and opened not his mouth. He was taken away from distress and from judgment. \* and his memory shall be in peace.

**R.** Behold how the Just dieth, and none taketh it to heart: and just men are taken off and no considereth. The Just is taken away from the face of iniquity: \* and his memory shall be in peace.

### **The Third Nocturn**

**ANT. 1** God is my helper † and the Lord is the protector of my soul.

### **PSALM 53**

Save me, O God, by thy name : and judge me in thy strength.

O God, hear my prayer : give ear to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen up against me, and the mighty have sought after my soul : and they have not set God before their eyes.

For behold God is my helper : and the Lord is the protector of my soul.

Turn back the evils upon my enemies : and cut them off in thy truth.

I will freely sacrifice to thee : and will give praise, O God, to thy name because it is good:

For thou hast delivered me out of all trouble : and my eye hath looked down upon my enemies.

**ANT. 1** God is my helper and the Lord is the protector of my soul.



**ANT. 2** His place † is in peace: and his abode in Sion.

### **PSALM 75**

In Judea God is known : his name is great in Israel.

And his place is in peace : and his abode in Sion:

There hath he broken the powers of bows : the shield,  
the sword, and the battle.

Thou enlightenest wonderfully from the everlasting hills  
: All the foolish of heart were troubled.

They have slept their sleep : and all the men of riches  
have found nothing in their hands.

At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob : they have all slumbered  
that mounted on horseback.

Thou art terrible, and who shall resist thee? : from that  
time thy wrath.

Thou hast caused judgment to be heard from heaven :  
the earth trembled and was still,

When God arose in judgment : to save all the meek of  
the earth.

For the thought of man shall give praise to thee : and the remainders of the thought shall keep holiday to thee.

Vow ye, and pay to the Lord your God : all you that are round about him bring presents.

To him that is terrible, even to him who taketh away the spirit of princes : to him that is terrible with the kings of the earth.

**ANT. 2** His place is in peace: and his abode in Sion.



**ANT. 3** I am become † as a man without help, free among the dead.

### **PSALM 87**

O Lord, the God of my salvation : I have cried in the day, and in the night before thee.

Let my prayer come in before thee : incline thy ear to my petition.

For my soul is filled with evils : and my life hath drawn nigh to hell.

I am counted among them that go down to the pit : I am become as a man without help.

Free among the dead. Like the slain sleeping in the sepulchres, whom thou rememberest no more : and they are cast off from thy hand.

They have laid me in the lower pit : in the dark places, and in the shadow of death.

Thy wrath is strong over me : and all thy waves thou hast brought in upon me.

Thou hast put away my acquaintance far from me : they have set me an abomination to themselves.

I was delivered up, and came not forth: my eyes languished through poverty.

All the day I cried to thee, O Lord : I stretched out my hands to thee.

Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? : or shall Physicians raise to life, and give praise to thee?

Shall anyone in the sepulchre declare thy mercy : and thy truth in destruction?

Shall thy wonders be known in the dark : and thy justice in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O Lord, have cried to thee : and in the morning my prayer shall prevent thee.

Lord, why castest thou off my prayer : why turnest thou away thy face from me?

I am poor, and in labors from my youth : and being exalted have been humbled and troubled.

Thy wrath hath come upon me : and thy terrors have troubled me.

They have come round about me like water all the day : they have compassed me about together.

Friend and neighbor thou hast put far from me : and my acquaintance, because of misery.

**ANT. 3** I am become as a man without help, free among the dead.



**V.** He hath set me in dark places

**R. As those that are dead for ever.**

*Recite the Our Father (silently)*



**FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE  
BLESSED APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS**

*Hebrews 4:11- 5:10*

**Seventh Lesson**

Let us hasten therefore to enter into that rest; lest any man fall into the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is living and effectual, and more piercing than any two edged sword; and reaching unto the division of the soul and the spirit, of the joints also and the marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature invisible in his sight: but all things are naked and open to his eyes, to whom our speech is. Having therefore a great high priest that hath passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God: let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest, who cannot have compassion on our infirmities: but one tempted in all things like as we are, without sin.

***Responsory: Eram quasi agnus***

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

**V.** All my enemies contrived mischief against me, they uttered a wicked speech against me, saying: \* Come let us put wood into his bread, and let root him out of the land of the living.

## **Eighth Lesson**

Let us go therefore with confidence to the throne of grace: that we may obtain mercy, and find grace in seasonable aid. For every high priest taken from among men, is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God, that he may offer up gifts and sacrifices for sins:

Who can have compassion on them that are ignorant and that err: because he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And therefore he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

### ***Responsory: Velum templi***

**R.** The veil of the temple was rent \* and all the earth shook. The thief from the cross cried out, saying: Lord, remember me, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

**V.** The rocks were rent and graves opened, and there arose many bodies of the saints, that were dead. \* and all the earth shook. The thief from the cross cried out, saying: Lord, remember me, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

## Ninth Lesson

Neither doth any man take the honor to himself, but he that is called by God, as Aaron was. So Christ also did not glorify himself, that he might be made a high priest: but he that said unto him: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place: Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedech. Who in the days of his flesh, with a strong cry and tears, offering up prayers and supplications to him that was able to save him from death, was heard for his reverence. And whereas indeed he was the Son of God, he learned obedience by the things which he suffered: And being consummated, he became, to all that obey him, the cause of eternal salvation; called by God a high priest according to the order of Melchisedech.

### *Responsory: Sepulto Domino*

**R.** When the Lord was buried, they sealed the sepulchre, rolling a stone before the mouth of the sepulchre: \* placed soldiers to guard Him.

**V.** The chief priests went to Pilate and having asked for Him \* placed soldiers to guard Him.

**R.** When the Lord was buried, they sealed the sepulchre, rolling a stone before the mouth of the sepulchre: \* placed soldiers to guard Him.

## LAUDS

**ANT. 1** God spared not † even his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.

### PSALM 63

Hear, O God, my prayer, when I make supplication to thee : deliver my soul from the fear of the enemy.

Thou hast protected me from the assembly of the malignant : from the multitude of the workers of iniquity.

For they have whetted their tongues like a sword : they have bent their bow a bitter thing,

To shoot in secret the undefiled : They will shoot at him on a sudden, and will not fear.

They are resolute in wickedness : They have talked of hiding snares, they have said, Who shall see them?

They have searched after iniquities: they have failed in their search. Man shall come to a deep heart:

God shall be exalted : The arrows of children are their wounds:

And their tongues against them are made weak : All that saw them were troubled.

Every man was afraid : And they declared the works of God, and understood his doings.

The just shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in him : and all the upright in heart shall be praised.

**ANT. 1** God spared not † even his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.



**ANT. 2** He was led † as a sheep to the slaughter, and opened not his mouth.

## **PSALM 89**

Lord, thou hast been our refuge : from generation to generation.

Before the mountains were made, or the earth and the world was formed : from eternity and to eternity thou art God.

Turn not man away to be brought low : and thou hast said, Be converted, O ye sons of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight ; are as yesterday which is past.

As a watch in the night : things that are counted nothing, shall their years be.

In the morning man shall grow up like grass, in the morning he shall flourish and pass away : in the evening he shall fall, grow dry, and wither.

For in thy wrath we have fainted away : and are troubled in thy indignation.

Thou hast set our iniquities before thy eyes : our life in the light of thy countenance.

For all our days are spent : and in thy wrath we have fainted away.

Our years shall be considered as a spider: the days of our years in them are threescore and ten years.

But if in the strong they be fourscore years : and what is more of them is labor and sorrow.

For mildness is come upon us : and we shall be corrected.

Who knoweth the power of thy anger : and for thy fear can number thy wrath?

So make thy right hand known : and men learned in heart, in wisdom.

Return, O Lord, how long? : and be entreated in favor of thy servants.

We are filled in the morning with thy mercy : and we have rejoiced, and are delighted all our days.

We have rejoiced for the days in which thou hast humbled us : for the years in which we have seen evils.

Look upon thy servants and upon their works : and direct their children.

And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us: and direct thou the works of our hands over us : yea, the work of our hands do thou direct.

**ANT. 2** He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and opened not his mouth.



**ANT. 3** They shall mourn † for him as one mourneth for an only son; for the Lord who is without sin, is slain.

## **PSALM 142**

Hear, O Lord, my prayer, give ear to my supplication in thy truth : hear me in thy justice.

And enter not into judgment with thy servant : for in thy sight no man living shall be justified.

For the enemy hath persecuted my soul : he hath brought down my life to the earth.

He hath made me to dwell in darkness as those that have been dead of old : and my spirit is in anguish within me: my heart within me is troubled.

I remembered the days of old, I meditated on all thy works : I meditated upon the works of thy hands.

I stretched forth my hands to thee : my soul is as earth without water unto thee.

Hear me speedily, O Lord : my spirit hath fainted away.

Turn not away thy face from me : lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

Cause me to hear thy mercy in the morning : for in thee have I hoped.

Make the way known to me, wherein I should walk : for I have lifted up my soul to thee.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, : to thee have I fled.

Teach me to do thy will : for thou art my God.

Thy good spirit shall lead me into the right land : for thy name's sake, O Lord, thou wilt quicken me in thy justice.

Thou wilt bring my soul out of trouble : and in thy mercy thou wilt destroy my enemies.

And thou wilt cut off all them that afflict my soul : for I am thy servant.



**ANT. 3** They shall mourn for him as one mourneth for an only son; for the Lord who is without sin, is slain.



**ANT. 4** From the gates † of Hell, deliver my soul, O Lord.

**Canticle of Ezechias: *Isaiah 38: 10-20***

I said, In the midst of my days : I shall go to the gates of hell.

I sought for the residue of my years : I said, I shall not see the Lord God in the land of the living.

I shall behold man no more : nor the inhabitant of rest.

My generation is at an end, and it is rolled away from me : as a shepherd's tent.

My life is cut off, as by a weaver, whilst I was yet but beginning, he cut me off : from morning even to night thou wilt make an end of me.

I hoped till morning : as a lion so hath he broken all my bones.

From morning even to night thou wilt make an end of me : I will cry like a young swallow, I will meditate like a dove.

My eyes are weakened : with looking upward.

Lord, I suffer violence, answer thou for me : What shall I say, or what shall he answer for me, whereas he himself hath done it?

I will recount to thee all my years : in the bitterness of my soul.

O Lord, if man's life be such, and the life of my spirit be in such things as these : thou shalt correct me, and make me to live.

Behold in peace is my bitterness most bitter: but thou best delivered my soul that it should not perish, thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

For hell shall not confess to thee, neither shall death praise thee : nor shall they that go down into the pit, look for thy truth.

The living, the living, he shall give praise to thee, as I do this day : the father shall make thy truth known to the children.

O Lord, save me : and we will sing our psalms all the days of our life in the house of the Lord.

**ANT. 4** From the gates of Hell, deliver my soul, O Lord.



**ANT. 5** O death, † I will be thy death; O grave, I will be thy destruction.

### **PSALM 150**

Praise ye the Lord in his holy places : praise ye him in the firmament of his power.

Praise ye him for his mighty acts : praise ye him according to the multitude of his greatness.

Praise him with sound of trumpet : praise him with psaltery and harp.

Praise him with timbrel and choir : praise him with strings and organs.

Praise him on high sounding cymbals, praise him on cymbals of joy : let every spirit praise the Lord.

**ANT. 5** O death, I will be thy death; O grave, I will be thy destruction.



**V.** My flesh also shall rest in hope.

**R. Thou wilt not let thy Holy One see corruption.**

**ANT.** Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.

*All the church lights are now extinguished. The six High Mass candles are put out during the Canticle of Zachary as follows.*

## The Canticle of Zachary

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : because he hath visited and wrought the redemption of His people.

And hath raised up an horn of salvation to us : in the house of David his servant.



As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets ; who are from the beginning.

Salvation from our enemies : and from the hand of all that hate us.



To perform mercy to our fathers : and to remember his holy testament.

The oath, which he swore to Abraham our father : that he would grant to us.



That being delivered from the hand of our enemies : we may serve him without fear.

In holiness and justice before him : all our days.



And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways.

To give knowledge of salvation to his people : unto the remission of their sins.



Through the tender mercy of our God : by which the Orient from on high hath visited us.

To enlighten them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death : to direct our feet into the way of peace.



*During the singing/reading of this final Antiphon, the last remaining lighted candle (the one at the peak of the Tenebrae Hearse, representing Our Lord Jesus Christ) is now removed and hidden behind the epistle side of the altar or in some other convenient place to indicate His death and burial.*

**ANT.** Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation, weeping for the Lord.

*All now kneel and the following versicle is sung or said.*

Christ humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross; For which cause God also hath highly exalted Him, and hath given Him a Name which is above all names.

*Then is said silently the Our Father.*

*Then in an audible but low voice the Psalm Miserere is said by all.*

**PSALM 50: *The Miserere Mei, Deus***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy. According to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my iniquity.

Wash me yet more thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my iniquity, and my sin is always before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned, and done evil in Thy sight: that Thou mayest be justified in Thy words and mayest overcome when Thou art judged.

For behold I was conceived in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

For behold Thou hast loved truth: the uncertain and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made manifest to me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness: and the bones that have been humbled shall rejoice.

Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create a clean heart in me, O God: and renew a right spirit within my bosom.

Cast me not away from Thy face; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and strengthen me with a perfect spirit.

I will teach the unjust, Thy ways: and the wicked shall be converted unto Thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall extol Thy justice.

O Lord, Thou wilt open my lips: and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would indeed have given it: with burnt offerings Thou wilt not be satisfied.

A sacrifice to God is an afflicted spirit: a contrite and humbled heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Deal favorably, O Lord, in Thy good will with Sion; that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up.

Then shalt Thou accept the sacrifice of justice, oblations and whole burnt offerings: then shall they lay young bullocks upon Thine altar.

*The Celebrant now reads in an audible but low and humble voice the following Collect, without the usual greeting:*

### **Collect**

Look down, we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon this Thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be delivered into the hands of the wicked, and to undergo the torment of the Cross. [*he adds silently... Who now livest and reignest with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.*]

*A loud noise, known as the “strepitus” is now made [usually by slamming books closed or against the pews] to represent the earthquake at the death of Our Lord and the closing of His tomb.*

*In silence the lighted candle which had previously been hidden behind the altar, now symbolic of the Risen Lord rising from the dead and conquering death, is returned to its prominent position at the peak of the Tenebrae Hearse, and everyone leaves the church in silence.*

**Here ends the Service of Tenebrae**