



For Thursday of Holy Week
(Sung at Sundown on Wednesday)

The name Tenebrae (the Latin word for darkness or shadow) has for centuries been applied 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.

You will see thirteen candles lit in the sanctuary: after each of the psalms one candle is extinguished, and lights in the Cathedral are turned off, until only a single candle, a symbol of our Lord, remains. Toward the end of the service, this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection (Matthew 28:2); the Christ candle is restored to its place and subdued lighting is turned on. In the shadows, we all depart in silence.

After the first three psalms, there will be a time of silent prayer, when we can each offer ourselves to God to be made clean through the passion and death of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is followed by three readings from the Old Testament book, The Lamentations of Jeremiah (1:1-14), each verse of which is introduced by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet (the letter with which it begins in Hebrew).

There is no musical prelude or postlude at this service. There are no hymns or address. The antiphons are sung before and after each psalm and canticle. No *Gloria patri* is added to the psalmody. No page numbers or announcements are made. Please follow the service as outlined in this service sheet.

Antiphon 1

Behold, God is my helper:
The Lord is he that upholdeth my soul

Psalm 54

BCP p. 397
(1st candle is extinguished)

Antiphon 2

At Salem is his tabernacle:
and his dwelling in Sion.

Psalm 76

BCP p. 424
(2nd candle is extinguished)

Antiphon 3

They shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child:
for the Lord, who is without sin, is slain.

Psalm 143

BCP p. 513
(3rd candle is extinguished)

Silent Prayer

Lesson 1: Lamentations 1:1-5

Responsory 1

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.

On the Mount of Olives, 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. Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Lesson 2: Lamentations 1: 6-9

Responsory 2

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.

My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death: tarry ye here and watch with me: now shall ye see the multitude come about me: Ye shall flee and I go to be sacrificed for you. Behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Ye shall flee and I go to be sacrificed for you.

Lesson 3: Lamentations 1: 10-14

Responsory 3

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.

Behold, we have seen him without form or comeliness: his form is gone from him: he hath borne our sins, and his sorrows are for us: he was wounded for our transgressions: And with his stripes we are healed. Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. And with his stripes we are healed.

Antiphon 4

Let them draw back and be disgraced:
Who take pleasure in my destruction.

Psalm 70 BCP p. 415
(4th candle is extinguished)

Antiphon 5

God did not spare his own Son:
but delivered him up for us all.

Psalm 63 BCP p. 405
(5th candle is extinguished)

Antiphon 6

O Death, I will be your death;
O Grave, I will be your destruction.

Psalm 150 BCP p. 521
(6th candle is extinguished)

Antiphon to Benedictus

Now the women sitting at the tomb made lamentation:
weeping for the Lord.

Benedictus BCP p. 9
(The remaining candles are extinguished &
the Christ candle is removed)

Christus factus est (said by officiant)

Christ for us became obedient unto death, even death on a cross;
therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the
Name which is above every name.

Psalm 51 (said by officiant) BCP p. 394

Collect BCP p. 169

Silence

Strepitus – Loud Noise

(Christ Candle is returned. All leave in silence)