

## **TENEBRAE**

**Leader:** O God, who by the passion of Christ your son, our Lord, abolished the death inherited from ancient sin by every succeeding generation, grant that just as, being conformed to him, we have borne by the law of nature the image of the man of earth, so by the sanctification of grace we may bare the image of the Man of Heaven through Christ our Lord.

Hymn: O Sacred Head #393

## **FIRST NOCTURN**

**Leader:** Earthly Kings rise up, in revolt; princes conspire together against the Lord and his Anointed.

### **Psalm 2**

Why this tumult among nations, among peoples this useless murmuring? They arise, the kings of the earth, princes plot against the Lord and his Anointed. "Come, let us break their fetters, come, let us cast off their yoke off their yoke."

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord is laughing them to scorn. Then he will speak in his anger, he rage will strike them with terror. "It is who have set up my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

I will announce the decree of the Lord: The Lord said to me: "You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day. Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations, put the ends of the earth in your possession. With a rod of iron you will break them, shatter them like a potter's jar."

Now, O kings, understand, take warning, rulers of the earth; serve the Lord with awe and trembling, pay him your homage lest he be angry and you perish; for suddenly his anger will blaze.

Blessed are they who put their trust in God.

**All: Earthly Kings rise up, in revolt; princes conspire together against the Lord and his Anointed.**

**Leader:** Jesus Christ loved us, and poured out His own blood for us, to wash away our sins.

### **Psalm 54**

O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause. O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life. They have no regard for God. But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life.

I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good: for you have rescued me from all my distress and my eyes have seen the downfall of my foes.

**All: Jesus Christ loved us, and poured out His own blood for us, to wash away our sins.**

**Leader:** My body shall rest in hope.

**Psalm 16 (sung)**

**All: My body shall rest in hope.**

**Lord's Prayer** (whispered softly by all)

**A reading from Lamentations**

(2:8--3-9)

The Lord was bent on destroying the wall of daughter Zion: He stretched out the measuring line; did not hesitate to devour, brought grief on rampart and wall till both succumbed.

Her gates sank into the ground; he smashed her bars to bits. Her King and her princes are among the nations; instruction is wanting, even her prophets do not obtain any vision from the Lord.

The elders of daughter Zion sit silently on the ground; They cast dust on their heads and dress in sackcloth; The young women of Jerusalem bow their heads to the ground.

My eyes are spent with tears, my stomach churns; My bile is poured out on the ground at the brokenness of the daughter of my people, as children and infants collapse in the streets of the town.

To what can I compare you, to what can I liken you, O daughter Jerusalem? What example can I give in order to comfort you, virgin daughter Zion. For your breach is vast as the sea; who could heal you?

Your prophets provided you visions of white washed illusion; they did not lay bare your guilt, in order to restore your fortunes; they saw for your only oracles of empty discrete. All who pass by on the road, clap their hands at you; they hiss and wag their heads over daughter Jerusalem, "Is this the city they use to call perfect in beauty and joy of all the earth?"

I am one who has known affliction under the rod of God's anger, One whom he has driven and forced to walk in darkness, not in light; Against me alone he turns his hand again and again all day long.

He has worn away my flesh and my skin, he has broken my bones; he has besieged me all around with poverty and hardship; he has left me to dwell in dark places like those long dead. He has hemmed me in with no escape, weighed me down with chains; Even when I cry for help, he stops my prayer; he has hemmed in my ways with fitted stones and made my paths crooked.

**Leader:** He was lead like a lamb to the slaughter; no complaint from his lips against the evil done to him.

**All: He was given up to death, to give his people life.**

**(EXTINGUISH CANDLES)**

## **SECOND NOCTURN**

**Leader:** Imprisoned, I cannot escape; my eyes are sunken with grief.

### **Psalm 88**

Lord my God, I call for help by day; I cry at night before you. Let my prayer come into your presence. O turn your ear to my cry.

For my soul is filled with evils; my life is on the brink of the grave. I am reckoned as one in the tomb: I have reached the end of my strength,

Like one alone among the dead; like the slain lying in their graves; like those you remember no more, cut off, as they are, from your hand.

You have laid me in the depths of the tomb, in places that are dark, in the depths. Your anger weighs down upon me: I am drowned beneath your waves.

You have taken away my friends and made me hateful in their sight. Imprisoned, I cannot escape; my eyes are sunken with grief.

I call to you, Lord, all the day long; to you I stretch out my hands. Will you work your wonders for the dead? Will the shades stand and praise you?

Will your love be told in the grave or your faithfulness among the dead? Will your wonders be known in the dark or your justice in the land of oblivion?

As for me, Lord, I call to you for help: in the morning my prayer comes before you. Lord, why do you reject me? Why do you hide your face?

Wretched, close to death from my youth, I have borne your trials; I am numb. Your fury has swept down upon me; your terrors have utterly destroyed me.

They surround me all the day like a flood, they assail me all together. Friend and neighbor you have taken away: my one companion is darkness.

**All: Imprisoned, I cannot escape; my eyes are sunken with grief.**

**Leader:** O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.

### **Psalm 27 (sung)**

**All: O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.**

**Leader:** In peace, I will lie down and sleep.

### **Psalm 4**

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me; have mercy and hear me! O men, how long will your hearts be closed, will you love what is futile and seek what is false? It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I

call him. Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still. Makes justice your sacrifice and trust in the Lord. "What can bring us happiness?" many say. Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord. You have put into my heart a greater joy that they have from abundance of corn and new wine. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**All: In peace, I will lie down and sleep.**

### **Lord's Prayer (whispered)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

(19:17-30)

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled: "They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots." This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

**Leader:** We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way.

**All: But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.**

**(EXTINGUISH CANDLES)**

### **THIRD NOCTURN**

**Leader:** My soul is in anguish, my heart is in torment.

#### **Psalm 143**

Lord, listen to my prayer: turn your ear to my appeal. You are faithful, you are just; give answer. Do not call your servant to judgment for no one is just in your sight.

The enemy pursues my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead, long forgotten. Therefore my spirit fails; my heart is numb within me.

I remember the days that are past: I ponder all your works. I muse on what your hand has wrought and to you I stretch out my hands. Like a parched land my soul thirst for you.

Lord, make haste and answer; for my spirit fails within me. Do not hide your face lest I become like those in the grave.

In the morning let me know your love for I put my trust in you. Make me know the way I should walk; to you I lift up my soul.

Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will for you, O Lord are my God. Let your good spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth.

For your name's sake, Lord, save my life; in your justice save my soul from distress.

**All: My soul is in anguish, my heart is in torment.**

**Leader:** Rescue me, God, from my foes; protect me from those who attack me.

### **Psalm 59**

Rescue me, God, from my foes; protect me from those who attack me. O rescue me from those who do evil and save me from blood-thirsty men.

See, they lie in wait for my life; powerful men band together against me. For no offense, no sin of mine, Lord, for no guilt of mine they rush to take their stand. Awake, come to my aid and see!

O my Strength, it is you to whom I turn, for you, O God, are my stronghold, the God who shows me love.

O God, come to my aid and let me look in triumph on my foes.

As for me, I will sing of your strength and each morning acclaim your love for you have been my stronghold, a refuge in the day of my distress.

O my Strength, it is you to whom I turn, for you, O God, are my stronghold, the God who shows me love.

**All: Rescue me, God, from my foes; protect me from those who attack me.**

**Leader:** Show us, Lord, your mercy; grant us your salvation.

### **Psalm 85 (sung)**

**All: Show us, Lord, your mercy; grant us your salvation.**

### **Lord's Prayer (whispered)**

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our profession of faith. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favor and to find help in time of need.

Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with erring sinners, for he himself is beset by weakness and so must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. One does not take this honor on his own initiative, but only when called by God as Aaron was.

Even Christ did not glorify himself with the office of high priest; he received it from the One who said to him, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"; just as he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to God, who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when perfected, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, designated by God as high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Leader:** But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity.

**All: He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed.**

**(EXTINGUISH CANDLES)**

### **CONCLUSION**

**Leader:** God did not spare his own son, but gave him up to suffer for our sake.

#### **Psalm 51**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence and be without reproach when you judge. O see, in guilt I was born, a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom. O purify me, then I shall be clean; O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness that the bones you have crushed may revive. From my sins turns away your face and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper, and my tongue shall ring out your goodness. O Lord, open my lips and mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, burnt offering from me you would refuse, my sacrifice, a contrite spirit. A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, holocausts offered on your altar.

**All: God did not spare his own son, but gave him up to suffer for our sake.**

### **CANDLE REMOVED FROM SANCTUARY**

**Final Prayer:** Father, look with love upon your people, the love which our Lord Jesus Christ showed us when he delivered himself to evil men and suffered the agony of the cross, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

### **STREPITUS IS HEARD**

### **CANDLE RETURNS & SILENT DISMISSAL**