

TENEBRAE



*Watching with Christ
in the darkness and shadows,
while he prepares to suffer
for the sake of the world.*

About this service:

The name Tenebrae (the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows") 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. So one might imagine that we gather as monks have for centuries during the dark of the night and the early morning, to reflect and anticipate Christ's suffering for our world.

The most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, considered 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 hidden candle is restored to its place, and by its light all depart in silence.

By drawing upon material from each of the former three offices of Tenebrae (the monastic services read during darkness) this service provides an extended meditation upon, and a prelude to, the events in our Lord's life between the Last Supper and the Resurrection.

This particular service has been restructured for St. James' Episcopal Church, Skaneateles, NY

Part One

Leader: Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

Psalm 69: 1-15

1 Save me, O God,
for the waters have risen up to my neck.

2 I am sinking in deep mire,
and there is no firm ground for my feet.

3 I have come into deep waters,
and the torrent washes over me.

4 I have grown weary with my crying; my throat is inflamed;
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.

5 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty.
Must I then give back what I never stole?

6 O God, you know my foolishness,
and my faults are not hidden from you.

7 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, Lord GOD of hosts;
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me, O God of Israel.

8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.

10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

11 I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.

12 I put on sack-cloth also,
and became a byword among them.

13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.

14 But as for me, this is my prayer to you,
at the time you have set, O LORD:

15 "In your great mercy, O God,
answer me with your unfailing help.

Leader: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
People: **From the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: Let them draw back and be disgraced who take pleasure in my misfortune.

Psalm 69: 16-23

- 16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.
- 17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
- 18 Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me."
- 19 "Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- 20 Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.
- 21 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor;
my adversaries are all in your sight."
- 22 Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed;
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I could find no one.
- 23 They gave me gall to eat,
and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

Leader: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
People: **From the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: Arise, O God, maintain my cause.

Psalm 69: 31-38

- 31 As for me, I am afflicted and in pain;
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.
- 32 I will praise the Name of God in song;
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.
- 33 This will please the LORD more than an offering of oxen,
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.
- 34 The afflicted shall see and be glad;
you who seek God, your heart shall live.
- 35 For the LORD listens to the needy,
and his prisoners he does not despise.
- 36 Let the heavens and the earth praise him,
the seas and all that moves in them;
- 37 For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah;
they shall live there and have it in possession.
- 38 The children of his servants will inherit it,
and those who love his Name will dwell therein.

Leader: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
People: **From the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Reflection One:
Jesus in Gethsemane
Excerpt from *Intense Moments with the Savior*, by Ken Gire

Response:

Leader: On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the Father:
People: **Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

Leader: Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation.
People: **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

Leader: My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death;
People: **remain here, and watch with me. Now you shall see the crowd who will surround me; you will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.**

Leader: Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man
is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
People: **You will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.**

Leader: Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty,
People: **with no looks to attract our eyes. He bore our sins and grieved for us,
he was wounded for our transgressions, and by his scourging we are
healed.**

Leader: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows:
People: **And by his scourging we are healed.**

All stand for silent prayer.

Part Two


Leader: The kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against his Anointed.

Song *The Lord is my light, my light and salvation*

Theme I

The Lord is my light 36


Calmly (♩ = 66)



The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

Chord markings: (A1) Dm, G, (A2), (B1), (B2), fine

Theme II



The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

Chord markings: (A1), (A2), (B1), (B2), fine

Leader: They divide my garments among them,
People: **They cast lots for my clothing.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: They divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

Psalm 27: 1-11

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me,
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter;
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

Leader: They divide my garments among them,
People: **They cast lots for my clothing.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: False witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

Psalm 27: 12-18

¹² Hide not your face from me,
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

¹³ You have been my helper; cast me not away;
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

¹⁴ Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will sustain me.

¹⁵ Show me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

¹⁶ Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

¹⁷ What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁸ O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart;
wait patiently for the LORD.

Leader: They divide my garments among them,

People: **They cast lots for my clothing.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Reflection Two:
Jesus in Roman Hands
Excerpt from *Intense Moments with the Savior*, by Ken Gire

Response:

Leader: Have you come out as against a robber,
People: **with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me; but now, behold, you scourge me, and lead me away to be crucified.**

Leader: When they had laid hands on Jesus and were holding him, he said:
People: **Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me; but now, behold, you scourge me, and lead me away to be crucified.**

Leader: Darkness covered the whole land when Jesus had been crucified;
People: **and about the ninth hour he cried with a loud voice: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? And he bowed his head and handed over his spirit.**

Leader: Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
People: **And he bowed his head and handed over his spirit.**

Leader: See how the righteous one perishes,
People: **and no one takes it to heart. The righteous are taken away, and no one understands. From the face of evil the righteous one is taken away, and his memory shall be in peace.**

Leader: Like a sheep before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away:
People: **And his memory shall be in peace.**

All stand for silent prayer.

Part Three

Leader: God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

Song *Oh Lord, hear my prayer*

♩ = 72

Em C⁶ D G C Am⁶ B

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The

Em C⁶ D G⁶ Am B Em *fine*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The

Leader: He has made me dwell in darkness,
People: **Like the dead of long ago.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: At Salem is his tabernacle, and his dwelling is in Zion.

Psalm 88: 1-10

- ¹ O LORD, my God, my Savior,
by day and night I cry to you.
- ² Let my prayer enter into your presence;
incline your ear to my lamentation.
- ³ For I am full of trouble;
my life is at the brink of the grave.
- ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I have become like one who 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.
- ⁷ You have laid me in the depths of the Pit,
in dark places, and in the abyss.
- ⁸ Your anger weighs upon me heavily,
and all your great waves overwhelm me.
- ⁹ You have put my friends far from me;
you have made me to be abhorred by them;
I am in prison and cannot get free.
- ¹⁰ My sight has failed me because of trouble;
LORD, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my hands to you.

Leader: He has made me dwell in darkness,
People: **Like the dead of long ago.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: I have become like one who has no strength, lost among the dead.

Psalm 88: 14-19

14 But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

15 LORD, why have you rejected me?

16 why have you hidden your face from me?

17 Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death;
I have borne your terrors with a troubled mind.

18 Your blazing anger has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me;

19 They surround me all day long like a flood;
they encompass me on every side.

20 My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me,
and darkness is my only companion.

Leader: He has made me dwell in darkness,

People: **Like the dead of long ago.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Reflection Three:

Jesus at Golgotha

Excerpt from *Intense Moments with the Savior*, by Ken Gire

Response:

Leader: I was like a trusting lamb led to the slaughter.

People: **I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,
Let us destroy the tree with its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of
the living.**

Leader: All my enemies whispered together against me,
and devised evil against me, saying:

People: **Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living.**

Leader: The veil of the temple was torn in two,

People: **and the earth shook, and the thief from the cross cried out,
Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Leader: The rocks were split, the tombs were opened,
and many bodies of the saints who slept were raised:

People: **And the earth shook, and the thief from the cross cried out,
Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Leader: When the Lord was buried, they sealed the tomb,

People: **rolling a great stone to the door of the tomb;
and they stationed soldiers to guard him.**

Leader: The chief priests gathered before Pilate, and petitioned him:

People: **And they stationed soldiers to guard him.**

All stand for silent prayer.

Part Four

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

Song *Our darkness is never darkness in your sight*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 66. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first line of the song, with lyrics in English and French. The second system contains the second line of the song, also with lyrics in English and French. The music features a variety of chords and melodic lines, with some notes circled in the original image. The score ends with a 'fine' marking and a fermata over the final note.

System 1: $\text{♩} = 66$ F# Bm Am D G F#
Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

System 2: Bm A D Em⁶ F#^{SUS} fine F#
deep - est night is clear as the day light. Our
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè re. La té -

Leader: My flesh also shall rest in hope:
People: You will not let your holy One see corruption.

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and he opened not his mouth.

Psalm 90

- ¹ Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
- ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
- ³ You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- ⁶ In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- ⁷ For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- ⁸ Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- ⁹ When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- ¹⁰ The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are
gone.
- ¹¹ Who regards the power of your wrath?
who rightly fears your indignation?
- ¹² So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- ¹³ Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
- ¹⁵ Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Leader: My flesh also shall rest in hope:

People: **You will not let your holy One see corruption.**

+ A candle is extinguished

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

Psalm 63

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

³ For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your Name.

⁵ My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ When I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Leader: My flesh also shall rest in hope:
People: **You will not let your holy One see corruption.**

+ A candle is extinguished

Leader: From the gates of hell, O Lord, deliver my soul.

Song

Stay with me, remain here with me

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 72. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of music. The second system contains the next two lines. Chord symbols are placed above the treble clef staff. Dynamics include piano (p) and forte (f). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Chord symbols: Dm, Gm°, Dm, Gm°, F, C, Dm, ASUS, A.

Lyrics:
Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
Blei - bet hier und wa - chet mit mir, wa - chet und
pray, watch and pray.
be tet, wa - chet und be - tet.

Leader: My flesh also shall rest in hope:
People: You will not let your holy One see corruption.

+ A candle is extinguished

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

Psalm 143

- ¹ LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications;
answer me in your righteousness.
- ² Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- ³ For my enemy has sought my life; he has crushed me to the ground;
he has made me live in dark places like those who are long dead.
- ⁴ My spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is desolate.
- ⁵ I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds;
I consider the works of your hands.
- ⁶ I spread out my hands to you;
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.
- ⁷ O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me;
do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
- ⁸ Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you;
show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you.
- ⁹ Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD,
for I flee to you for refuge.
- ¹⁰ Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God;
let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
- ¹¹ Revive me, O LORD, for your Name's sake;
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

Leader: My flesh also shall rest in hope:
People: **You will not let your holy One see corruption.**

+ A candle is extinguished

All stand.

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

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The remaining candle is taken from the stand and hidden.

A brief silence is observed.

ALL:

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.

All sit for the singing of the following anthem.

Anthem

Jesus Remember Me

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows a musical score for the anthem 'Jesus Remember Me'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' are written below the treble clef staff of each system. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Leader:

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross.

Nothing further is said; but a noise is made, and the remaining candle is brought from its hiding place and replaced on the stand.

By its light the ministers and people depart in silence.

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