

Tenebrae Service at St. James – Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

Tenebrae is an ancient service meaning “darkness,” based on the monastic offices of prayer, observed during the last three days of Holy with candlelight, and the reciting of Psalms and lessons that reflect on the final events of Jesus' life. We light 7 candles and extinguish one following each Psalm until the last one remains, is hidden, and brought back as a reminder of hope in the darkness. A loud sound at the end recalls the earthquake that broke open the tomb. This service was adapted for use at home from the Book of Occasional Services, 2018.

Directions for Tenebrae at Home:

If you would like to recite and follow along with the Psalms, please use the Book of Common Prayer. You are welcome to light your own 7 candles at home and extinguish them at the designated times or simply follow along and watch the video.

Antiphon 1: Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

Psalm 69:1-18, BCP, pg. 679

Extinguish First Candle

Antiphon 2: Let them draw back and be disgraced who take pleasure in my misfortune.

Psalm 70, pg. 682

Extinguish Second Candle

Antiphon 3: Arise, O God, maintain my cause.

Psalm 74:15-20, pg. 690

Extinguish the Third Candle

V: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked

R: From the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

Lesson 1

(All lessons are from the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah and prefixed by the letters of the Hebrew alphabet)

V: Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation.

R: The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Lesson 2

V: My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death;

R: 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.

V: Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

R: You will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.

Lesson 3

V: Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty,

R: 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.

V: Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows:

R: And by his scourging we are healed.

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

Psalm 63:1-8, pg. 670

Extinguish fourth candle

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

Psalm 90:1- 12, pg. 717

Extinguish fifth candle

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

Song of Hezekiah: Isaiah 38:10-20

Extinguish the sixth candle

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

Psalm 150, pg. 807

V: My flesh also shall rest in hope

R: You will not let your holy One see corruption.

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

Canticle 16, pg. 92

While still lit, the seventh candle is removed, hidden out of sight

Kneel for the anthem, Christus factus est

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.

SILENCE

Psalm 51:1-18, pg. 656

Collect: 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.

SILENCE

(A loud sound is heard)

The remaining candle is brought back and replaced from its hiding place

Depart in silence