

Tenebrae

The Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows,” Tenebrae 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.

This service is marked by reading from the book of Lamentations and by the gradual extinguishing of candles until a single candle remains—a symbol of Christ among us. 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, representing 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.

The lights are dimmed and fifteen candles are lit.

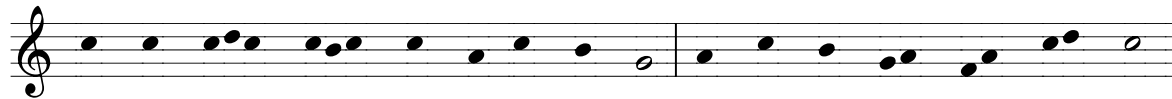
The psalms are sung antiphonally, one verse to each side.

Matins

First Nocturn

Psalm 69

Zelus domus, Mode 8



Zeal for your house has eat- en me up; the scorn of those who scorn you



has fall- en up- on me.

- 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 fall | en 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 by | word among them.
- 13 Those who sit at the gate murmur a | gainst 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.
- 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 com | passion, 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 re | deem me; *
because of my ene | mies deliver me.
- 21 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dis | honor; *
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.
- 24 Let the table before them be | a trap *
and their | sacred feasts a snare.
- 25 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may | not see, *
and give them continual | trembling in their loins.
- 26 Pour out your indignation up | on them, *
and let the fierceness of your anger | overtake them.
- 27 Let their camp be | desolate, *
and let there be none to | dwell in their tents.
- 28 For they persecute him whom you have | stricken *
and add to the pain of | those whom you have pierced.
- 29 Lay to their charge guilt up | on guilt, *
and let them not receive your | vindication.
- 30 Let them be wiped out of the book of the | living *
and not be written a | mong the righteous.
- 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 bull | ocks 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 in | herit it, *
and those who love his | Name will dwell therein.

The first candle (right side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Psalm 70

Avertantur retrorsum, Mode 8



Let them draw back and be dis- graced



who take plea- sure in my mis- for- tune.

- 1 Be pleased, O God, to de | liver me; *
O Lord, make | haste to help me.
- 2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether | dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw | back and be disgraced.
- 3 Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me | turn back, *
be | cause they are ashamed.
- 4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
| “Great is the Lord!”
- 5 But as for me, I am poor and | needy; *
come to me | speedily, O God.
- 6 You are my helper and my de | liverer; *
O Lord, | do not tarry.

The second candle (left side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.



A- rise, O God, main-tain your cause.

- 1 O God, why have you utterly cast | us off? *
why is your wrath so hot against the sheep | of your pasture?
- 2 Remember your congregation that you purchased long | ago, *
the tribe you redeemed to be your inheritance,
and Mount | Zion where you dwell.
- 3 Turn your steps toward the end | less ruins; *
the enemy has laid waste everything in your | sanctuary.
- 4 Your adversaries roared in your ho | ly place; *
they set up their banners as tok | ens of victory.
- 5 They were like men coming up with axes to a grove | of trees; *
they broke down all your carved work with hat | chets and hammers.
- 6 They set fire to your ho | ly place; *
they defiled the dwelling-place of your Name and | razed it to the ground.
- 7 They said to themselves, "Let us destroy them al | together." *
They burned down all the meeting-places of | God in the land.
- 8 There are no signs for us to see; there is no pro | phet left; *
there is not one among | us who knows how long.
- 9 How long, O God, will the adversa | ry scoff? *
will the enemy blaspheme your | Name for ever?
- 10 Why do you draw back | your hand? *
why is your right hand hidden | in your bosom?
- 11 Yet God is my King from an | cient times, *
victorious in the | midst of the earth.
- 12 You divided the sea by | your might *
and shattered the heads of the dragons up | on the waters;
- 13 You crushed the heads of | Leviathan *
and gave him to the people of the | desert for food.
- 14 You split open spring | and torrent; *
you dried up ever-|flowing rivers.
- 15 Yours is the day, yours also | the night; *
you established the | moon and the sun.
- 16 You fixed all the boundaries of | the earth; *
you made both sum | mer and winter.
- 17 Remember, O Lord, how the ene | my scoffed, *
how a foolish peo | ple despised your Name.
- 18 Do not hand over the life of your dove to | wild beasts; *
never forget the | lives of your poor.
- 19 Look upon | your covenant; *
the dark places of the earth are | haunts of violence.
- 20 Let not the oppressed turn a way | ashamed; *

- let the poor and | needy praise your Name.
- 21 Arise, O God, maintain | your cause; *
remember how fools re | vile you all day long.
- 22 Forget not the clamor of your ad | versaries, *
the unending tumult of those who rise | up against you.

The third candle (right side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

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

All stand for silent prayer. The reader then goes to the lectern, and everyone else sits down.

Lesson 1

A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet.

Aleph. How lonely sits the city, once so full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal.

Beth. She weeps bitterly in the night, tears run down her cheeks;
among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have become her enemies.

Gimel. Judah has gone into exile and suffering;
she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

Daleth. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate, her priests groan;
her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.

He. Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper;
because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 1

In monte Oliveti, Mode 4

On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the 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 may not enter into temptation.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Lesson 2

Waw. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty.
Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture;
they fled without strength before the pursuer.

Zayin. Jerusalem remembers, in the days of her affliction and wandering,
all the precious things that were hers in days of old.
When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was no one to help her,
the foe looked on mocking over her downfall.

Heth. Jerusalem sinned grievously, so she became a mockery;
all who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness;
she herself groans, and turns her face away.

Teth. Her uncleanness clung to her skirts, she took no thought of her future;
her downfall was appalling, with none to comfort her.
“O Lord, look at my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!”

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 2

Tristis est anima mea, Mode 4

My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death;
remain here, and watch with me.

**Now you will see the crowd who will surround me;
you will flee, and I will go to be offered up for you.**

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

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

Lesson 3

Yodh. Enemies have stretched out their hands over all her precious things;
she has even seen the nations invade her sanctuary,
those whom you forbade to enter your congregation.

Kaph. All her people groan as they search for bread;
they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength.
Look, O Lord, and see how worthless I have become.

Lamedh. Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted,
on the day of his fierce anger.

Mem. From on high he sent fire, it went deep into my bones;
he spread a net for my feet, he turned me back;
he has left me stunned, faint all day long.

Nun. My transgressions were bound into a yoke;
by his hand they were fastened together;
they weigh upon my neck, sapping my strength.
The Lord handed me over,
to those whom I cannot withstand.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 3

Ecce vidimus eum, Mode 4

Lo, we have seen him without beauty or majesty,
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.
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.
And by his scourging we are healed.

A brief silence is kept.

Second Nocturn

Psalm 2

Astiturent reges, Mode 8



The kings of the earth rise up in re- volt, and the prin-ces plot to- ge- ther,



a- gainst the Lord and a- gainst his A- nointed.

- 1 Why are the nations in an | uproar? *
Why do the peoples | mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot to | gether, *
against the Lord and against | his Anointed?
- 3 “Let us break their | yoke,” they say; *
“let us cast | off their bonds from us.”
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is | laughing; *
the Lord has them | in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in | his wrath, *
and his rage fills | them with terror.

- 6 “I myself have | set my king *
upon my holy | hill of Zion.”
- 7 Let me announce the decree of | the Lord: *
he said to me, “You are my Son; this day have | I begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your in | heritance *
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an | iron rod *
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”
- 10 And now, you kings, | be wise; *
be warned, you | rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the | Lord with fear, *
and with trembling | bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you | perish; *
for his wrath is | quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy | are they all *
who take | refuge in him!

The fourth candle (left side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Psalm 22

Diviserunt sibi, Mode 8



They di- vide my gar-ments a- mong them;



they cast lots for my cloth-ing.

- 1 My God, my God, why have you for | saken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the | words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not | answer; *
by night as well, | but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the | Holy One, *
enthroned upon the prais | es of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their | trust in you; *
they trusted, and | you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were de | livered; *
they trusted in you and | were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and | no man, *
scorned by all and despised | by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me | to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag | their heads, saying,
- 8 “He trusted in the Lord; let him de | liver him; *
let him rescue him, if | he delights in him.”
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of | the womb, *
and kept me safe up | on my mother’s breast.

- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born; *
you were my God when I was still | in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble | is near, *
and | there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls en | circle me; *
strong bulls of Ba | shan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their | jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a | roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint; *
my heart within my | breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of | my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the | dust of the grave.
- 16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle a | round me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet; I | can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat | over me; *
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots | for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far a | way, O Lord; *
you are my strength; has | ten to help me.
- 19 Save me | from the sword, *
my life from the | power of the dog.
- 20 Save me from the | lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the | horns of wild bulls.
- 21 I will declare your Name to my | brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation | I will praise you.
- 22 Praise the Lord, you that | fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his | face from them; *
but when they cry to | him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great as | sembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of | those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall | praise him: *
"May your heart | live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to | the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to | the Lord; *
he rules ov | er the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in | worship; *
all who go down to the dust | fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall | serve him; *
they shall be known as the | Lord's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn *
the saving | deeds that he has done.

The fifth candle (right side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Psalm 27

Insurrexerunt in me, Mode 8



False wit- ness- es have ri- sen up a- gainst me,



and al- so those who speak ma- lice.

- 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 a | gainst me, *
yet my heart | shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up a | gainst 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 Harken 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.
- 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 for | sake 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 adver | saries, *
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 pa | tiently for the Lord.

The sixth candle (left side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

They divide my garments among them:

They cast lots for my clothing.

All stand for silent prayer. The reader then goes to the lectern, and everyone else sits down.

Lesson 4

A reading from the Treatise on the Psalms by Saint Augustine the Bishop.

[Vulgate Psalm 54. Prayer Book Psalm 55:1,2,10c]

”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.

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 4

Tamquam ad latronem, Mode 4

Have you come out as against a robber,

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.

When they laid hands on Jesus and were holding him, he said:

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.

Lesson 5

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 devils 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, 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.”

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 5

Tenebrae factae sunt, Mode 4

Darkness covered the whole land
when Jesus had been crucified;
and about the ninth hour he cried out with a loud voice:
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
And he bowed his head and handed over his spirit.
Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said:
Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
And he bowed his head and handed over his spirit.

Lesson 6

“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.”

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 6

Ecce quomodo moritur, Mode 4

See how the righteous one perishes,
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.**

Like a sheep before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away:

And his memory shall be in peace.

See how the righteous one perishes,

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.**

A brief silence is kept.

Third Nocturn

Psalm 54

Deus adjuvit me, Mode 8

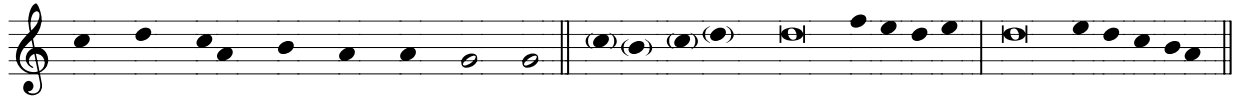


Psalm 76

In pace factus est, Mode 7



At Sa- lem is his ta- ber- na- cle,



and his dwell- ing is in Zi- on.

- 1 In | Judah is God known; *
his Name is | great in Israel.
- 2 At Salem is his | tabernacle, *
and his dwelling | is in Zion.
- 3 There he broke the | flashing arrows, *
the shield, the sword, and the | weapons of battle.
- 4 How | glorious you are! *
more splendid than the ever | lasting mountains!
- 5 The strong of heart have been despoiled; they | sink into sleep; *
none of the | warriors can lift a hand.
- 6 At your rebuke, O | God of Jacob, *
both horse and | rider lie stunned.
- 7 What | terror you inspire! *
who can stand before you when | you are angry?
- 8 From heaven | you pronounced judgment; *
the earth was a | fraid and was still;
- 9 When God rose | up to judgment *
and to save all the op | pressed of the earth.
- 10 Truly, wrathful | Edom will give you thanks, *
and the remnant of | Hamath will keep your feasts.
- 11 Make a vow to the Lord your | God and keep it; *
let all around him bring gifts to him who is | worthy to be feared.
- 12 He breaks the | spirit of princes, *
and strikes terror in the | kings of the earth.

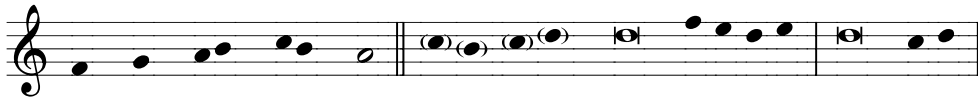
The eighth candle (left side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Psalm 88

Factus est, Mode 7



I have be- come like one who has no strength,



lost a- mong the dead.

- 1 O Lord, my | God, my Savior, *
by day and night I | cry to you.
- 2 Let my prayer enter in | to your presence; *
incline your ear to my lamen | tation.
- 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 re | member 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 up | on me heavily, *
and all your great waves over | whelm 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 be | cause of trouble; *
Lord, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my | hands to you.
- 11 Do you work | wonders for the dead? *
will those who have died stand up and | give you thanks?
- 12 Will your loving-kindness be de | clared in the grave? *
your faithfulness in the land of de | struction?
- 13 Will your wonders be | known in the dark? *
or your righteousness in the country where all is for | gotten?
- 14 But as for me, O Lord, I | cry to you for help; *
in the morning my prayer comes be | fore you.
- 15 Lord, why have | you rejected me? *
why have you hidden your | face from me?
- 16 Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and | at the point of death; *
I have borne your terrors with a | troubled mind.
- 17 Your blazing anger | has swept over me; *
your terrors have de | stroyed me;
- 18 They surround me all day | long like a flood; *
they encompass me on | every side.
- 19 My friend and my neighbor you have | put away from me, *
and darkness is my only com | panion.

The ninth candle (right side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

He has made me dwell in darkness:
Like the dead of long ago.

All stand for silent prayer. The reader then goes to the lectern, and everyone else sits down.

Lesson 7

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. [4:15—5:10; 9:11-15]

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people.

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 7

Eram quasi agnus, Mode 4

I was like a trusting lamb led to the slaughter.

**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.**

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

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

Lesson 8

And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today have I begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 8

Velum templi, Mode 4

The veil of the temple was torn in two,
**and the earth shook, and the thief from the cross cried out,
Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**
The rocks were split, the tombs were opened,
and many bodies of the saints who slept were raised:
**And the earth shook, and the thief from the cross cried out,
Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Lesson 9

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

A brief silence is kept.

Responsory 9

Tenebrae factae sunt, Mode 4

When the Lord was buried, they sealed the tomb,
**rolling a great stone to the door of the tomb;
and they stationed soldiers to guard him.**
The chief priests gathered before Pilate,
and petitioned him.
And they stationed soldiers to guard him.

A brief silence is kept.

Lauds

Psalm 63

Proprio filio suo, Mode 7



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



- 1 O God, you are my God; eager | ly 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.
- 9 May those who seek my | life to destroy it *
go down into the | depths of the earth;
- 10 Let them fall upon the | edge of the sword, *
and let them be | food for jackals.
- 11 But the king will rejoice in God;
all those who swear by | him will be glad; *
for the mouth of those who speak | lies shall be stopped.

The tenth candle (left side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Psalm 90

Dominus tanquam ovis, Mode 2



He was led like a lamb to the slaugh-ter,



and he o- pened not his mouth.

- 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, *

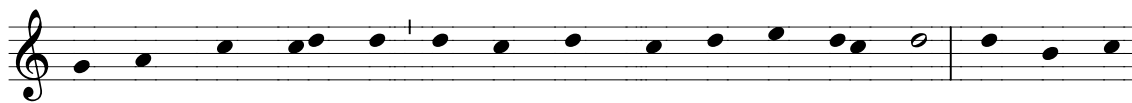
“Go back, | O child of earth.”

- 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 dis | pleasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful in | dignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set be | fore 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 in | dignation?
- 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 af | flicted us *
and the years in which we suffered | adversity.
- 16 Show your servants | your works *
and your splendor to | their children.
- 17 May the graciousness of the Lord our God be up | on us; *
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper | our handiwork.

The eleventh candle (right side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Psalm 143

Planget eum, Mode 4



They shall mourn for him as one mourns for an on- ly child; for the Lord,



who is with- out sin, is slain.

- 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 with | in 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.
 - 12 Of your goodness, de | stroy my enemies
and bring all my foes to naught, *
for truly | I am your servant.

The twelfth candle (left side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Song of Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:10- 20)

A porta inferi, Mode 2



From the gates of hell, O Lord, de- liv- er my soul.



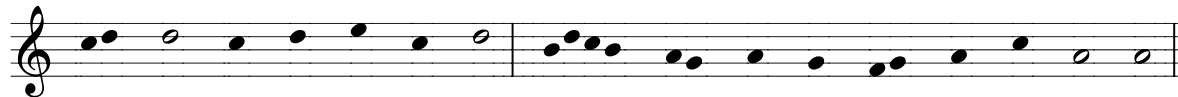
- 1 In my despair I said,
“In the noonday of my life I | must depart; *
my unspent years are summoned to the por | tals of death.”
- 2 And I said,
“No more shall I see the Lord in the land of the | living, *
never more look on my kind among dwell | ers on earth.
- 3 My house is pulled down and I am un | covered, *
as when a shep | herd strikes his tent.
- 4 My life is rolled up like a | bolt of cloth, *
the threads cut | off from the loom.

- 5 Between sunrise and sunset my life is brought to | an end; *
I cower and hope | for the dawn.
- 6 Like a lion he has crushed all | my bones; *
like a swallow or thrush I utter plaintive cries;
I mourn | like a dove.
- 7 My weary eyes look | up to you; *
Lord, be my refuge in my | affliction.”
- 8 But what can I say? for he has | spoken; *
it is he who | has done this.
- 9 Slow and halting are my steps all | my days, *
because of the bitterness of | my spirit.
- 10 O Lord, I recounted all these things to you and you | rescued me; *
when entreated, you | restored my life.
- 11 I know now that my bitterness was for | my good, *
for you held me back from the pit of destruction,
you cast all my sins | behind you.
- 12 The grave does not thank you nor death give | you praise; *
nor do those at the brink of the grave hang on | your promises.
- 13 It is the living, | O Lord, *
the living who give you thanks as I | do this day;
- 14 You, Lord, are my | Savior; *
I will praise you with stringed instruments
all the days of my life, in the house | of the Lord.

The thirteenth candle (right side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

Psalm 150

O mors, Mode 4



O Death, I will be your death; O Grave, I will be your de-struc-tion.



lost a- mong the dead.

- 1 Praise God in his | holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his | power.
- 2 Praise him | for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent | greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast | of the ram's-horn; *
praise him with | lyre and harp.
- 4 Praise him with | timbrel and dance; *
praise him with | strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with re | sounding cymbals; *

praise him with loud-clanging | cymbals.
6 Let eve | rything that has breath *
| praise the Lord.

The fourteenth candle (left side) is extinguished. A brief silence is kept.

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

All stand.

During the canticle, all other lights except for the single remaining candle are turned off.

The canticle is sung in unison.

Song of Zechariah (Benedictus Dominus Deus)

Mulieres, Mode 1



Now the wo- men sit- ting at the tomb



made la- men- ta- tion, weep- ing for the Lord.

Blessed be the Lord, the God | of Israel, *
for he has come to his peo | ple and set them free.
He has raised up for us a migh | ty 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 fa | ther Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands | of our enemies,
Free to worship him with | out 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 forgive | ness of all 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 in | to the way of peace.

After the canticle, during the repetition of the antiphon, the remaining candle (the Christ candle) is hidden.

All kneel for the singing of the following anthem.

Christus factus est

Mode 5



Christ for us be- came o- be- di- ent un- to death,



e- ven death on a cross; there-fore God has high-ly ex- al- ted him



and be-stowed on him the Name which is a- bove ev- ery name.

A brief silence is observed.

The following psalm is then said quietly.

Psalm 51

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *

- that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
 - 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
 - 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
 - 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
 - 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
 - 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
 - 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
 - 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
 - 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
 - 19 Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
 - 20 Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

The presider says the collect without chant, and without the usual conclusion.

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.

A loud noise is made, and the burning Christ candle is brought from its hiding place and replaced on the stand.

By its light all depart in silence.