The Office of Tenebrae

Wednesday of Holy Week
April 17, 2019 • 7:30 PM

The Cathedral of Saint Peter in Chains
In the City and Archdiocese of Cincinnati
The Office of Tenebrae

The word Tenebrae comes from the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." In another age, monks chanted the ancient psalms and lamentations in the darkness of the night or the very early morning. These early offices (Matins and Lauds) of the Sacred Triduum began to be anticipated the evenings before Thursday and Friday of Holy Week. In modern liturgical practice, Tenebrae is sung only on Wednesday evening and is restricted, at least officially, to the Cathedral Church.

A singular feature of this service is the fact that as the chants and readings progress, candles are gradually extinguished. Here, in the darkened church, we will extinguish all the lights until only one candle remains.

For a brief time – for the length of the Lord's Prayer – we remain in darkness, meditating on the mystery of Christ's death and the apparent victory of darkness and evil in our lives, only to be startled by a loud noise (strepitus) symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection. The candle then reappears and by its light we pray and leave quietly, anticipating the events to unfold in the Sacred Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil).

The atmosphere of this service is monastic and it invites your participation and quiet reflection. Music and text are designed to speak symbolically of our lives identified in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

PLEASE NOTE:
Please respect the solemn nature of this service and those assembled in prayer and worship:
kindly silence all mobile telephones and electronic devices while in the cathedral.
ORDER OF SERVICE

The assembly stands as the ministers enter in procession

**Processional** Turn Us Again, O Lord God of Hosts  
Peter Hallock

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;  
show us the light of Thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

O Lord of hosts, how long wilt Thou be angry with Thy people that prayeth? Thou feedest them with the bread of tears and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink. Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;  
show us the light of your countenance and we shall be whole!

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt; Thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. Thou madest room for it; and when it had taken root, it filled the land. The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and its boughs thereof were like the goodly cedar trees.  
Turn us again, O God of hosts; show us the light of your countenance and we shall be whole!

Turn Thee again, Thou God of hosts; look down from heaven, behold, and visit this vine.  
And the place of the vineyard that Thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that Thou madest so strong for Thyself. It is burnt with fire, and cut down; and they shall perish at the rebuke of Thy countenance. Let Thy hand be upon the man of Thy right hand, and upon the Son of Man, whom you have made so strong for Thine own self. And so we will not go back from Thee: O let us live, and we shall call upon Thy Name.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;  
show us the light of Thy countenance, and we shall be whole.  
(Psalm 80:3-10, 14-19)

**Call to Prayer**

Following the prayer, all are seated.

**Responsory** Tradiderunt Me  
James MacMillan

They delivered me into the hands of the impious, and cast me out amongst the wicked, and spared not my soul. The powerful gathered together against me, and like giants they stood against me. Strangers have risen up against me, and the mighty have sought after my soul.
I.

Lamentation of the Prophet Jeremiah

Gregorian Chant

Cantor: Lamentation 1: 1-14.

Here begins the Lamentation of the Prophet Jeremiah

Aleph. How lonely she is now, the once crowded city! Widowed is she who was mistress over nations; the princess among the provinces has made a toiling slave.

Beth. Bitterly she weeps at night, tears upon her cheeks, with not one to console her of all her dear ones; her friends have all betrayed her and become her enemies.

Ghimel. Judah has fled into exile from oppression and cruel slavery; yet where she lives among the nations she finds no place to rest: all her persecutors come upon her where she is narrowly confined.

Daleth. The roads to Sion mourn for lack of pilgrims going to her feast; all her gateways are deserted, her priests groan, her virgins sigh; she is in bitter grief.

He. Her foes are uppermost, her enemies are at ease; the Lord has punished her for her many sins. Her little ones have gone away, captive before the foe.

Psalm 69: 30 - 37.

Antiphon

Presider I am worn out with crying,
All with longing for my God.

Men This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favor.
In your great love, answer me, O God;
with your help that never fails:

Women Rescue me from sinking in the mud;
save me from my foes.
Save me from the waters of the deep
lest the waves overwhelm me.

Men Do not let the deep engulf me
nor death close its mouth on me.
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

Women Do not hide your face from your servant;
answer quickly for I am in distress.
Come close to my soul and redeem me;
ransom me pressed by my foes.

Men You know they taunt and deride me;
my oppressors are all before you.
Taunts have broken my heart;
I have reached the end of my strength.
Psalm prayer

Reading Hebrews 10:19-25, 32-36

Responsory Eram Quasi Agnus Tomás Luis de Victoria

I was like an innocent lamb: I was led to be sacrificed and I knew it not: my enemies conspired against me, saying: Come, let us put wood into his bread, and root him out of the land of the living. All my enemies contrived mischief against me, they uttered evil speech against me, saying: Come, let us put wood into his bread, and root him out of the land of the living.

II.

Lamentation of the Prophet Jeremiah Gregorian Chant

Cantor: Lamentation 4:1-6

Aleph. How tarnished is the gold, how changed the noble metal; how the sacred stones lie strewn at every street corner!

Beth. Sion's precious sons, fine gold their counterpart, now worth no more than earthen jars made by the hands of a potter!

Ghimel. Even jackals bare their breasts and suckle their young; the daughter of my people has become as cruel as the ostrich in the desert.

Daleth. The tongue of the suckling cleaves to the roof of its mouth in thirst; the babes cry for food, but there is no one to give it to them.

He. Those accustomed to dainty food perish in the streets; those brought up in purple now cling to the ash heaps.
Presider
They divided my garments among them:
All They cast lots for my clothing.

Men
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
You are far from my plea and the cry of my distress.
O my God, I call by day and you give no reply
I call by night and I find no peace.

Women
Yet you, O God, are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers put their trust;
they trusted and you set them free.
When they cried to you, they escaped.
In you they trusted and never in vain.

Men
But I am a worm and no man,
sco...
Men
I can count every one of my bones.
These people stare at me and gloat;
they divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.

Women
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!
Rescue my soul from the sword,
my life from the grip of these dogs.

Men
Save my life from the jaws of these lions,
my poor soul from the horns of these oxen.
I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.

All
They divided my garments among them:
they cast lots for my clothing.

Psalm-prayer

Reading Romans 5:6-15, 18-19

Responsory O Vos Omnes Pablo Casals

O all you who pass along this way, behold and see if there is any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

Hymn Stand

1. O Sa-cred Head sur-round-ed By crown of pierc-ing thorn!
2. I see your strength and vig-or All fad-ing in the strife,
3. In this your bit-ter pas-sion, Good Shep-herd, think of me

O bleed-ing head so wound-ed, Re-viled and put to scorn!
And death with cru-el rig-or, Be-reav-ing you of life:
With your most sweet com-pas-sion, Un-worth-y though I be:

The pow’r of death comes o’er you, The glow of life de-cays,
O ag-ony and dy-ing! O love to sinner’s free!
Be-neath your cross a-bid-ing For ev-er would I rest,

Yet an-gel hosts a-dore you, And trem-ble as they gaze.
Je-sus, all grace sup-ply-ing, O turn your face on me.
In your dear love con-fid-ing, And with your pres-ence blest.

Following the singing of the hymn, all are seated.
III.

Lamentation of the Prophet Jeremiah

Gregorian Chant

Cantor:


Here begins the prayer of the Prophet Jeremiah

Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us; behold and see our disgrace! Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to aliens. We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows. We must pay for the water we drink, the wood we get must be bought. With a yoke on our necks we are hard driven; we are weary, we are given no rest. We have given the hand to Egypt and to Assyria to get enough bread.

Our fathers sinned and are no more; and we bear their iniquities. Slaves rule over us; there is none to deliver us from their hand. We get our bread at the peril of our lives, because of the sword in the wilderness. Princes are hung up by their hands; no respect is shown to the elders. The old men have quit the city gate, the young men their music. The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning.

But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. Why do you forget us forever, why do you so long forsake us? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old.

Cantor, then all

Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa-lem, re-turn to the Lord, your God.

Psalm 4

Antiphon

Presider In peace,

All I will lie down and sleep.

Men When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me; have mercy and hear me!

Women My people, how long will your hearts be closed, will you love what is futile and seek what is false?

Men It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

Women Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still, Make justice your sacrifice and trust in the Lord.

Men What can bring us happiness? as many say: Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.

Women You have put into my heart a greater joy than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.

Men 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.

Psalm-prayer
Reading
Mark 8:27-38

Responsory  Miserere Mei, Deus
William Byrd

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great loving kindness. And according to the multitude of your mercies, blot out my iniquity. (Ps. 51)

IV.

Canticle  Philippians 2: 6-11.

Stand

| 1. Lord Jesus Christ humbled him | 2. Revealed to us in humanity |
| 3. Because of this, God raised him | 4. Each knee must bend, each tongue confess |

self form, and God exalted him for ever high, exalting him through endless a -
form, and thus it was he died to save,
self, and God exalted him for ever high, exalting him through endless a -
er. And though he was at one with us. Obediently accepting
ges. His is the name above all his name above all
earth. In glory to the Father God, Jesus took on the form of a slave.
death, humbly he went to death on the cross.
names, the holy name of our Lord Jesus.
blest, proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Lord.

Following the hymn, all are seated

Music: Jeruzalem, gij schone stad Flemish melody: Brugge, 1609
Setting: Guillelmus Messaus (1589-1640) Adpt. by Richard Proulx.
Text: Metrical form arranged by Richard Proulx
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Reading  
John 3:14-21

Silent Reflection

Responsor Tenebrae Factae Sunt  
Marc Antonio Ingegneri

There was darkness over all the land, when Jesus had been crucified: and about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" When Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." And bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

Invitation to Prayer

Motet Christus Factus Est  
Anton Bruckner

Christ was made obedient for us even unto death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God also has exalted him,  
and given him a name which is above every name.

Lord's Prayer (prayed softly)

Strepitus

Concluding Prayer  
Stand

* Procession of the Choir and Ministers

* The congregation is asked to remain in their seats at the end of the service until the side aisle lights have come fully on and the procession of the choir and ministers has departed the sanctuary. A free-willing offering will be accepted as you leave.

Departure in Silence
We welcome you to the cathedral for the celebration of our Holy Week liturgies. We hope that you might consider joining us on a regular basis. For information about parish membership, return to active participation or becoming a Catholic, call the cathedral office at 421-5354.
The Sacred Triduum and
Easter Day Liturgies at the Cathedral

Holy Thursday

5:00 PM Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, celebrant
Music: Cathedral Choir

Good Friday

12:00 noon Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion
Bishop Joseph R. Binzer, celebrant
Music: Cathedral Choir

5:15 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

8:30 PM Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, celebrant
Music: Cathedral Choir with brass

Easter Sunday

8:30 AM Easter Mass
Reverend Raymond Larger, celebrant
Music: Organ, Trumpet and Cantor

11:00 AM Solemn Easter Mass
Bishop Joseph R. Binzer, celebrant
Music: Cathedral Choir with brass, tympani & chamber orchestra

(NO 6:00 pm Mass Easter Sunday)