

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. Cross of Je - sus, Cross of sor - row, Where the Blood of
Christ was shed, per-fect man on thee was tor-tured, Per-fect God on thee has bled!

2. Here the King of all the ages,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying
Crucified by sin for me.

3. O mysterious condescending!
O abandonment sublime!
Very God himself is bearing
All the sufferings of mine.

4. Evermore for human failure
By his Passion we can plead;
But, as full of mortal anguish,
Surely he will know our need.

COLLECT

Celebrant:

Let us pray.

Father, in your plan of salvation
your Son Jesus Christ accepted the cross
and freed us from the power of the enemy.

May we come to share the glory of his resurrection,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

People:

Amen.

The people sit for the psalms.

I PSALM 69 (ALL SING)

Right side of the church:



Save me, O God, * for the waters have *ri-sen* to my neck.

Left: I have sunk into the mud of **the** deep *
and there *is* no **foothold**.

Right: I have entered the waters of **the** deep *
and the waves **overwhelm** me.

Left: I am wearied with all my **crying**, *
my throat **is** parched.

Right: My eyes are wasted **away** *
from *looking* **for** my God.

Left: More numerous than the hairs on **my** head *
are those who hate *me* **without** cause.

Right: Those who attack me **with** lies *
are too *much* for **my** strength.

Left: How can I **restore** *
what I have *never* **stolen**?

Right: O God, you know my sinful **folly**; *
my **sins** you **can** see.

Left: Let those who hope in you not be put **to** shame *
through *me*, Lord **of** hosts;

Right: let not those who seek you be **dismayed** *
through me, *God* of **Israel**.

Left: It is for you that I **suffer** taunts, *
that shame *covers* **my** face,

Right: that I have become a stranger to my **brothers**, *
an alien to my *own* **mother's** sons.

Left: I burn with zeal for **your** house *
and taunts *against* you **fall** on me.

Right: When I afflict my soul with **fasting** *
they make it a *taunt* **against** me.

Left: When I put on sackcloth in **mourning** *
they make *me* a **byword**,

Right: the gossip of men at **the** gates, *
the *subject* of **drunkards'** songs.

Left: This is my **prayer** to you, *
my prayer *for* your **favor**.

Right: In your great love, answer me, **O** God, *
with your *help* that **never** fails:

Left: rescue me from sinking in **the** mud; *
save *me* from **my** foes.

Right: Save me from the waters of **the** deep *
lest the waves **overwhelm** me.

Left: Do not let the deep **engulf** me *
nor death *close* its **mouth** on me.

Right: Lord, answer, for your **love** is kind; *
in your *compassion*, **turn** towards me.

Left: Do not hide your face from your **servant**; *
answer quickly for **I** am in distress.

Right: Come close to my soul and **redeem** me; *
ransom me *pressed* by **my** foes.

Left: You know how they taunt and **deride** me; *
my oppressors are *all* **before** you.

Right: Taunts have broken **my** heart; *
I have reached the *end* of **my** strength.

Left: I looked in vain for **compassion**, *
for consolers; not *one* could **I** find.

Right: For food they gave me **poison**; *
in my thirst they gave me *vinegar* to drink.

Left: As for me in my poverty **and** pain *
let your help, O *God*, lift **me** up.

Right: I will praise God's name with **a** song; *
I will glorify him *with* **thanksgiving**,

Left: a gift pleasing God more than **oxen**, *
more than beasts *prepared* for **sacrifice**.

Right: The poor when they see it will **be** glad *
and God-seeking *hearts* will **revive**;

Left: for the Lord listens to the **needy** *
and does not spurn his *servants* **in** their chains.

Right: Let the heavens and the earth give **him** praise, *
the sea and all its *living creatures*.

Left: For God will bring help to Zion and rebuild the cities of
Judah *
and men shall dwell there *in possession*.

Right: The sons of his servants shall **inherit** it; *
those who love his *name* shall **dwell** there.

ALL STAND: *Left:* Glory be to the Father, and **to** the Son, *
and to the *Holy Spirit*,

Right: as it was in the beginning **is** now, *
and will be for *ever*. Amen. **ALL SIT**

Two candles are extinguished.

FIRST READING (from the letter to the Hebrews)

While the promise of entrance into his rest still holds, we ought to be fearful of disobeying lest any one of you be judged to have lost his chance of entering. We have indeed heard the good news, as they did. But the word which they heard did not profit them, for they did not receive it in faith.

It is we who have believed who enter into that rest, just as God said:

"Thus I swore in my anger,
"They shall never enter into my rest."

Yet God's work was finished when he created the world, for in reference to the seventh day Scripture somewhere says, "And God rested from all his work on the seventh day"; and again, in the place we have referred to, God says, "They shall never enter into my rest."

Therefore, since it remains for some to enter, and those to whom it was first announced did not because of unbelief, God once more set a day, "today," when long afterward he spoke through David the words we have quoted:

"Today, if you should hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

Now if Joshua had led them into the place of rest, God would not have spoken afterward of another day. Therefore a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And he who enters into God's rest, rests from his own work as God did from his. Let us strive to enter into that rest, so that no one may fall, in imitation of the example of Israel's unbelief.

Indeed, God's word is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates and divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the reflections and thoughts of the heart. Nothing is concealed from him; all lies bare and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

LAMENTATIONS 1:1-7 (SUNG BY CANTORS)

Aleph. How lonely she is now, the once crowded city!
Widowed is she who was mistress over nations;
The princes among the provinces has been 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 Zion mourn for lack of pilgrims going to
her feasts;
All her gateways are deserted, her priests groan.
Her virgins sigh; she is bitter in 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.

Wau. Gone from daughter Zion is all her glory;
Her princes, like rams that find no pasture,
Have gone off without strength before their captors.

Zain. Jerusalem is mindful of the days of her wretched
homelessness,
When her people fell into enemy hands, and she had no one to
help her;
When her foes gloated over her, laughed at her ruin.

Two candles are extinguished.

PSALM 70 (ALL SING)

Right side of the church:



Left: Let there be shame and *confusion* *
on those *who* seek **my** life.

Right: O let them turn back in *confusion*, *
who *delight* in **my** harm,

Left: let them retreat, covered **with** shame, *
who *jeer* at **my** lot.

Right: Let there be rejoicing and **gladness** *
for *all* who **seek** you.

Left: Let them say for ever: “**God is great,**” *
who *love* your **saving** help.

Right: As for me, wretched **and** poor, *
come to **me**, O God.

Left: You are my rescuer, **my** help, *
O *Lord*, do **not** delay.

ALL STAND: *Right:* Glory be to the Father, and to **the** Son, *
and to the *Holy Spirit*,

Left: as it was in the beginning **is** now, *
and will be for *ever*. **Amen. ALL SIT.**

Two candles are extinguished.

SECOND READING (From an ancient homily on Holy Saturday)

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man

he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

LAMENTATIONS 1:8-14 (SUNG BY CANTORS)

Heth. Through the sin of which she is guilty, Jerusalem is defiled;

All who esteemed her think her vile now that they see her nakedness;

She herself groans and turns away.

Teth. Her filth is on her skirt; she gave no thought how she would end.

Astounding is her downfall, with no one to console her.

Look, O Lord, upon her misery, for the enemy has triumphed!

Yod. The foe stretched out his hand to all her treasures;
She has seen those nations enter her sanctuary
Whom you forbade to come into your assembly.

Kaph. All her people groan, searching for bread;
They give their treasures for food, to retain the breath of life.
“Look O Lord, and see how worthless I have become!

Lamed. “Come, all you who pass by the way, look and see
Whether there is any suffering like my suffering, which has
been dealt me
When the Lord afflicted me on the day of his blazing wrath.

Mem. “From on high he sent fire down into my very frame;
He spread a net for my feet, and overthrew me.
He left me desolate, in pain all the day.

Nun. He has kept watch over my sins; by his hand they have
been plaited:
They have settled about my neck, he has brought my strength
to its knees;
The Lord has delivered me into their grip, I am unable to rise.”

Two candles are extinguished.

PSALM 71 (ALL SING)

Right side of the church:



In you, O Lord, I take **re**-fuge; * let me ne-*ver* be **put** to shame.

Left: In your justice **rescue** me, free me: *
pay heed to *me* and **save** me.

Right: Be a rock where I can take refuge, a mighty stronghold
to **save** me; *
for you are my *rock*, my **stronghold**.

Left: Free me from the hand of the **wicked**, *
from the grip of the unjust, of *the* **oppressor**.

Right: It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord,
since **my** youth. *
on you I have *leaned* from **my** birth,

Left: from my mother's womb you have been **my** help. *
My hope has *always* **been** in you.

Right: My fate has filled many **with** awe *
but you are *my* strong **refuge**.

Left: My lips are filled with **your** praise, *
with your glory *all* the **day** long.

Right: Do not reject me now that **I am** old; *
when my strength fails do *not* **forsake** me.

Left: For my enemies are speaking **about** me; *
those who watch me take counsel **together**.

Right: They say: "God has forsaken him; **follow** him, *
seize him; there is no *one* to **save** him."

Left: O God, do not stay **far** off; *
my God, make *haste* to **help** me!

Right: Let them be put to shame and **destroyed**, *
all those who **seek** my life.

Left: Let them be covered with shame and **confusion**, *
all those who *seek* to **harm** me.

Right: But as for me, I will **always** hope *
and *praise* you **more** and more.

Left: My lips will tell of your justice and day by day of **your**
help *
though I can *never* **tell** it all.

Right: I will declare the Lord's **mighty** deeds, *
proclaiming your *justice*, **yours** alone.

Left: O God, you have taught me from **my** youth *
and I *proclaim* your **wonders** still.

Right: Now that I am old and grey-**headed**, *
do not *forsake* me, **O** God.

Left: Let me tell of your power to all **ages**, *
praise your strength and *justice* **to** the skies,

Right: tell of you who have worked such **wonders**. *
O God, *who* is **like** you?

Left: You have burdened me with bitter **troubles** *
but you will *give* me **back** my life.

Right: You will raise me from the depths of **the** earth; *
you will *exalt* me and *console* me **again**.

Left: So I will give you thanks on **the** lyre *
for your *faithful* **love**, my God.

Right: To you will I sing with **the** harp, *
to you, the Holy *One* of **Israel**.

Left: When I sing to you my lips shall **rejoice** *
and my soul, *which* you **have** redeemed.

Right: And all the day long **my** tongue *
shall tell the tale *of* your **justice**:

Left: for they are put to shame and **disgraced**, *
all those who *seek* to **harm** me.

ALL STAND: *Right:* Glory be to the Father, and to **the** Son, *
and to the *Holy* **Spirit**,

Left: as it was in the beginning **is** now, *
and will be for *ever*. **Amen. ALL SIT**

Two candles are extinguished.

THIRD READING (continued from the ancient Homily & Psalms)

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was

only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

LAMENTATIONS 1:15-22 (SUNG BY CANTORS)

Sameck. “All the mighty ones in my midst the Lord has cast away;

He summoned an army against me to crush my young men;
The Lord has trodden in the wine press virgin daughter Judah.

Ain. “At this I weep, my eyes run with tears:

Far from me are all who could console me, any who might revive me;

My sons were reduced to silence when the enemy prevailed.”

Pe. Zion stretched out her hands, but there was no one to console her;

The Lord gave orders against Jacob for his neighbors to be his foes;

Jerusalem has become in their midst a thing unclean.

Sade. “The Lord is just; I had defied his command.

Listen, all you peoples, and behold my suffering;

My maidens and my youths have gone into captivity.

Qoph. “I cried out to my lovers, but they failed me.

My priests and my elders perished in the city;

Where they sought food for themselves, they found it not.

Resh. "Look, O Lord, upon my distress: all within me is in ferment,
My heart recoils within me from my monstrous rebellion.
in the streets the sword bereaves, at home death stalks.

Shin. "Give heed to my groaning; there is no one to console me.
All my enemies rejoice at my misfortune: it is you who have wrought it.
Bring on the day you have proclaimed, that they may be even as I.

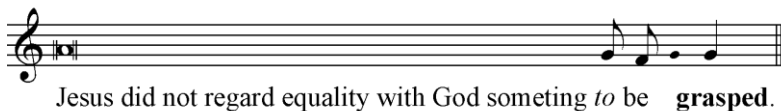
Tau. "Let all their evil come before you; deal with them
As you have dealt with me for all my sins;
My groans are many, and I am sick at heart."

Two candles are extinguished.

CANTICLE (ALL SING)

Philippians 2:6-11

Right side of the church:



Left: Rather, he emptied himself taking the form of a slave,
coming in *human likeness*;

Right: and found human in **appearance**,
he *humbled himself*,

Left: becoming obedient to the point **of** death,
even death *on a cross*.

Right: **Because** of this,
God greatly exalted **him**

Left: and bestowed on **him** the name
which is above every **name**,

Right: that at the name of **Jesus**
every *knee* should **bend**,

Left: of those in heaven and **on** earth
and *under* the **earth**,

Right: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ **is** Lord
to the glory of *God* the **Father**.

ALL STAND: *Left:* Glory be to the Father, and to **the** Son, *
and to the *Holy* **Spirit**,

Right: as it was in the beginning **is** now, *
and will be forever. **Amen. ALL SIT**

Two candles are extinguished.

FOURTH READING (from *Hosea 5:15b—16:2*)

Thus says the Lord: In their
affliction, they shall look for me:

"Come let us return to the Lord, for it is he
who has rent, but he will heal us;
he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds.

He will revive us after two days;

on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence."

PRAYER (ALL STAND)

Celebrant:

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God,
Grant us so to celebrate the mysteries of the Lord's Passion,
that we may deserve to obtain the pardon for our sins.
Your only Son went down among the dead
and rose again in glory.
In your goodness
raise up your faithful people,
buried with him in baptism,
to be one with him
in the eternal life of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

People:
Amen.

Deacon:
Let us bless the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God

Final candle is removed.

A noise is heard.

All leave in silence.

