

EASY PRINT – Tenebrae – April 16, 2025

The Priest lights the Tenebrae Candles.

Priest: The light has come into the world.

People: **And the world loved darkness rather than light.**

Priest: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures forever.**

Priest: Dear friends in Christ as we prepare for the Paschal Feast, let us in penitence make ready our hearts to renew the covenant of our baptism. Let us ask God to bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and to disclose to us the secret purposes of our hearts. Let us ask the grace to test our perseverance in resisting evil, and our willingness, when we fall into sin, to repent and return to the Lord.

A substantial silence follows for personal reflection.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

First Reading:

Lamentations 1: 1-5

How solitary lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow has she become, she that was great among the nations! She that was queen among the cities has now become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, tears run down her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all become her enemies. Judah has gone into the misery of exile and of hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; all her pursuers overtook her in the midst of her anguish. The roads to Zion mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan and sigh; her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness. Her adversaries have become her masters, her enemies prosper; because the Lord has punished her for the multitude of her rebellions; her children are gone, driven away as captives by the enemy. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Priest: On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the Father:

People: **Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.**

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

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

The Soloist will begin each Taize chant, singing it through once.

The congregation will then take up the refrain, repeating it until the Priest signals for it to end by taking his seat.

All sing the following repeatedly until the first candle is extinguished.

Hymn: #360- "BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL"

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.

Second Reading:

Lamentations 1: 6-9

And from Daughter Zion all her majesty has departed; her princes have become like stags that can find no pasture, and that run without strength before the hunter. Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and bitterness all the precious things that were hers from the days of old; when her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her; the adversary saw her, and mocked at her downfall. Jerusalem has sinned greatly, therefore she has become a thing unclean; all who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; and now she sighs, and turns her face away. Uncleaness clung to her skirts, she took no thought of her doom; therefore her fall is terrible, she has no comforter. "O Lord, behold my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Priest: 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.**

Priest: 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.**

The following chant is sung while the second candle is extinguished.

Hymn: #94 - “WAIT FOR THE LORD”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

Third Reading:

Lamentations 1: 10-14

The adversary has stretched out his hand to seize all her precious things; she has seen the Gentiles invade her sanctuary, those whom you had forbidden to enter your congregation. All her people groan as they search for bread; they sell their own children for food to revive their strength. “Behold, O Lord, and consider, for I am now beneath contempt!” Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted, on the day of his burning anger. From on high he sent fire, into my bones it descended; he spread a net for my feet, and turned me back; he has left me desolate and faint all the day long. My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; their yoke is upon my neck; he has caused my strength to fail. The Lord has delivered me into their hands, against whom I am not able to stand up. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Priest: 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.**

Priest: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows:

People: **And by his stripes we are healed.**

All sing the following until the third candle is extinguished.

Hymn: #540 “JUST AS THE DEER”

(Sung by all)

Just as the deer longs for the water brooks, so longs my soul for you O Lord my God
All that I am, thirsts for the living spring, of your kind presence welling deep within.
Why now so full of heaviness my soul? Why such disquiet deep within my heart?

Deep calls to deep in cataracts of thunder, your floods and rapids crash across my life.
My tears have been my food both day and night; my God, why now have you forgotten me?
Why now so full of heaviness my soul? Why such disquiet deep within my heart?

All through the day my God will comfort me, and in the night my voice will raise God's song,
And I will go to worship in God's house. God of my life, to you I raise my prayer,
And when I come into your presence, Lord, my barren soul will blossom with new life.

Fourth Reading:

Hebrews 4:15 – 5:3

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people.

Priest: 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.**

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

People: **Let us cut him off from the land of the living.**

The following is sung while the fourth candle is extinguished.

Hymn: # 549 - "OUR DARKNESS IS NEVER DARKNESS"

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

Fifth Reading:

Hebrews 5: 4-6

And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also, Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, this day have I begotten you;” as he says also in another place, “You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and, being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Priest: The veil of the temple was torn in two.,
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.**

*All sing the following repeatedly until the fifth candle is extinguished
and the priest takes his seat.*

Hymn: #634 - “JESUS, REMEMBER ME”

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Sixth Reading: The Rev. Daniel Brereton

Luke 22: 1-6

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

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

People: **they rolled a great stone over the door of the tomb;**

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

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

All sing the following while the sixth candle is extinguished.

Hymn: #533 - “JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL”

(Sung by all)

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, oh, leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.

Reflection: *Fr. Daniel Brereton*

Priest: Christ for us became obedient unto death,

People: **even death on a cross.**

Priest: Therefore God has highly exalted him

People: **and bestowed on him the Name which is above every name.**

Priest: We began this long Lenten journey with the sign of ashes, a symbol of repentance for those things that have divided us from God and from one another. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to come to this last Candle – the symbol of Christ’s light, still burning within our darkness, and relight your candle from it. Leave with Jesus all the darkness that still clouds your heart, and ask God to give you purity of heart, that you might serve the Risen Lord in a renewed way of life.

Please bring your vigil candle with you.

As the people come forward “O Sacred Head, Surrounded” is softly played

Priest: Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evils be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified by his risen life.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Most gracious God,

All: **look with mercy upon your family gathered here for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, given into sinful hands, and suffered death upon the cross. Strengthen our faith and forgive our betrayals as we enter the way of his passion; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Priest: Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: #455 - "DEAR GOD COMPASSIONATE AND KIND"

(Sung by all)

Dear God, compassionate and kind, forgive our foolish ways.

Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise, in deeper reverence, praise.

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace, the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm, O still, small voice of calm.

During this hymn the last candle is extinguished.

All are invited to extinguish their candles in the well and depart in silence.

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Thank you to all who participated in our service tonight.