

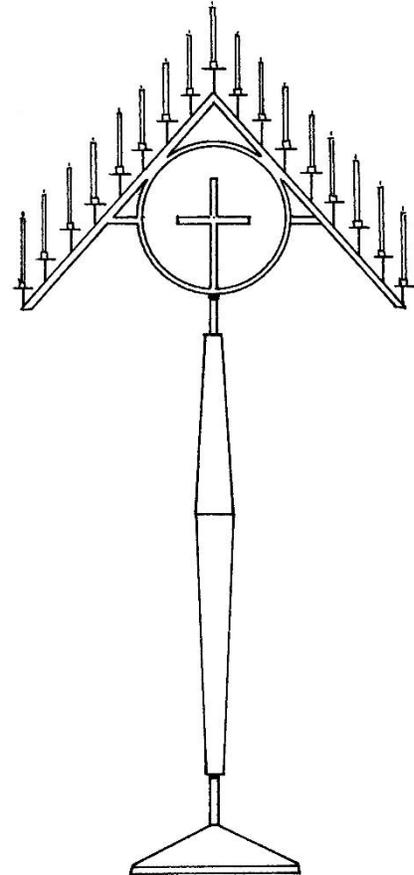
Tenebrae

✦ The Office of Tenebrae is simply the order of Matins (and Lauds) for the last three days of Holy Week. During the Three Days things are different from other times of the year. The church forbids herself the use of those formulas of joy and hope which begin her praise at other times of the year.

No “O Lord, open my lips....” No “Make haste, O God, to deliver me....” No “Glory be to the Father...” (Gloria Patri). The bare outline of the Office remains—psalms, lessons, and chants.

✦ A strict Tenebrae service includes a large triangular candle stick of 15 candles. At the end of each of the 13 psalms and two canticles, all of those fifteen candles are extinguished, except one. The six altar candles are extinguished as well. These candles remind us how all of his disciples deserted Jesus. That one candle is representative of Our Light, Jesus Christ. Christ’s glory was hid amidst darkness on the Cross that afternoon and then his visible presence was placed out of sight in a new tomb. In the midst of the darkness, that light is hid behind the altar during the recitation of Psalm 51 and a prayer. After a confused noise is heard, the candle is returned to the stand. That noise has been said to symbolize the opening of the tomb or the earthquake and the revelation that Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, shines as fair as always. Thus these afternoon services teach not only Christ’s suffering and death, but the upcoming celebration of the resurrection.

✦ The minister enters in silence. The service is conducted from the minister’s chair and a reading desk



Tenebrae

Complete ORDER OF TENEBRAE

A large triangular candlestand with 15 candles of yellow wax.

MATINS

First Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 69 [♩]
Psalm 70 [♩]
Psalm 71 [♩]

Lessons

Lamentations 1:1-5
Lamentations 1:6-9
Lamentations 1:10-14

Second Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 72 [♩] (p.332)
Psalm 73 [♩] (p.332-334)
Psalm 74 [♩]

Lessons

St. Augustine on Psalm 55:1
St. Augustine on Psalm 55:1
St. Augustine on Psalm 55:1

Third Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 75 [♩]
Psalm 76 [♩]
Psalm 77 [♩] (p.334)

Lessons

1 Corinthians 11:17-22
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
1 Corinthians 11:27-34

LAUDS

Psalm 51 [♩] (p.329-330)
Psalm 90 [♩] (p.335-336)
Psalm 36 [♩] (p.325-326)

Canticle of Moses (Ex 15:1-19) [♩]

Psalm 147:1-11 [♩] (p.364)

Canticle of
Zachariah (Benedictus)

MATINS

First Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 2 [♩] (p.313-314)
Psalm 22 [♩] (p.319-320)
Psalm 27 [♩] (p.322-323)

Lessons

Lamentations 2:8-11
Lamentations 2:12-15
Lamentations 3:1-9

Second Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 38 [♩] (p.326-327)
Psalm 40 [♩]
Psalm 54 [♩]

Lessons

St. Augustine on Psalm 64:1-3
St. Augustine on Psalm 64:1-3
St. Augustine on Psalm 64:1-3

Third Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 59 [♩]
Psalm 88 [♩]
Psalm 94 [♩]

Lessons

Hebrews 4:11-15
Hebrews 4:16-5:3
Hebrews 5:4-10

LAUDS

Psalm 51 [♩] (p.329-330)
Psalm 143 [♩] (p.363)
Psalm 85 [♩]

Canticle of Habakkuk () [♩]

Psalm 147:12-20 [♩] (p.364-365)

Canticle of
Zachariah (Benedictus)

MATINS

First Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 4 [♩] (p.314)
Psalm 15 [♩]
Psalm 16 [♩] (p.315-316)

Lessons

Lamentations 3:22
Lamentations 4:1-6
Lamentations 5:1-11

Second Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 24 [♩] (p.321)
Psalm 27 [♩] (p.322-323)
Psalm 30 [♩]

Lessons

St. Augustine on Psalm 63
St. Augustine on Psalm 64:5-6
St. Augustine on Psalm 64:5-6

Third Nocturn

Psalmody

Psalm 54 [♩]
Psalm 76 [♩]
Psalm 88 [♩]

Lessons

Hebrews 9:11-14
Hebrews 9:15-18
Hebrews 9:19-22

LAUDS

Psalm 51 [♩] (p.329-330)
Psalm 92 [♩] (p.337-338)
Psalm 64 [♩]

Canticle of Hezekiah (Is 38) [♩]

Psalm 150 [♩]

Canticle of
Zachariah (Benedictus)

During the singing the six candles on the altar are put out. [♩][♩][♩] [♩][♩][♩]

During the antiphon the final candle is held upon the altar on the Epistle side

Verse: "Christ became, for our sake, obedient to death."

Our Father

Psalm 51 (spoken)

The candle is hid behind the altar during the Psalm and prayer.

Prayer: Almighty God, we implore You graciously to be hold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A noise is made and then the candle is brought back out shining brightly.