

# *The Office of Tenebræ*

The name Tenebræ (the Latin word for darkness or shadows) has traditionally been given 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. Apart from the chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah, in which each verse is introduced by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church to signify the darkness that overshadowed the earth at Christ's crucifixion. The loud noise, or *strepitus*, at the conclusion of the service suggests the earthquake described in the Passion narratives. The single candle left burning is the symbol and promise of Christ's triumph over death and darkness.

## VERSE

*Presider:*

*ALL:*

O God, + come to my as-sist-ance. Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

## PSALM 68 PLEASE BE SEATED

*Salvum me fac*  
chant

**Antiphon** Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

**Response**

In your great love, O Lord, an - swer me.

*The cantor repeats the antiphon in Latin.*

Psalm Prayer

## PSALM 69 PLEASE BE SEATED

*Deus, in adjutorium*  
chant

**Antiphon** Let them draw back and be disgraced who take pleasure in my misfortune.

**Response**

O Lord, come to my aid.

*The cantor repeats the antiphon in Latin.*

Psalm Prayer



they have given all their precious things for food to relieve their souls.

See, O LORD, and consider, for I have become vile.

*LAMED.* O, all you who pass by, stop and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow;  
for the LORD has ruined me, as he said he would, in the day of his raging fury.

*MEM.* From above he has sent fire into my bones, and has chastised me.

He has made a net under my feet, and turned me back;

He has made me desolate and overburdened with sorrow all day long.

*NUN.* The yoke of my iniquities weighs me down;  
they are folded together in his hand and made into a collar; my strength is weakened.

The LORD has delivered me into the hands of those from whom I cannot rise up.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

## RESPONSORY

*O vos omnes*

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548–1611)

O all ye that pass by the way,  
attend and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

## LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Father Ryan leads the Litany which was prayed by Pope Francis  
at the extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* on March 27.*

*Father Ryan*

Truly God and truly human, truly present in the Holy Sacrament  
Our Savior, God-with-us, faithful and rich in mercy  
King and Lord of creation and of history  
Conqueror of sin and death  
Friend of humankind, the Risen One,  
the Living One who sits at the right hand of the Father

Only begotten Son of the Father, descended from Heaven for our salvation  
Heavenly physician, who bend down to our misery  
Slain Lamb, who offer yourself to ransom us from evil  
Good Shepherd, who give your life for the flock you love  
Living Bread and medicine of immortality, who give us eternal Life

From the power of Satan and the seductions of the world  
From the pride and presumption that we can do anything without you  
From the deceptions of fear and anxiety  
From unbelief and desperation  
From hardness of heart and the incapacity to love

From every evil that afflicts humanity  
From hunger, famine, and selfishness  
From illnesses, epidemics, and fear of our sisters and brothers  
From devastating madness, from ruthless interests, and from violence  
From being deceived, from false information, and from the manipulation of consciences

Protect your Church, which crosses the desert  
Protect humanity, terrified by fear and anguish  
Protect the sick and dying, oppressed by loneliness

ALL:

We adore you, O Lord  
We adore you, O Lord  
We adore you, O Lord  
We adore you, O Lord

We adore you, O Lord

We believe in you, O Lord  
We believe in you, O Lord  
We believe in you, O Lord  
We believe in you, O Lord  
We believe in you, O Lord

Deliver us, O Lord  
Deliver us, O Lord  
Deliver us, O Lord  
Deliver us, O Lord  
Deliver us, O Lord

Save us, O Lord  
Save us, O Lord  
Save us, O Lord  
Save us, O Lord  
Save us, O Lord

Comfort us, O Lord  
Comfort us, O Lord  
Comfort us, O Lord

Protect doctors and healthcare workers, exhausted by the difficulties they are facing  
Protect politicians and decision makers, who bear the weight of their choices

Comfort us, O Lord  
Comfort us, O Lord

In the hour of trial and confusion  
In temptation and in our fragility  
In the struggle against evil and sin  
In the search for what is truly good and for true joy  
In the decision to abide in you and in your friendship

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord  
Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

If sin oppresses us  
If hatred closes our hearts  
If sorrow visits us  
If indifference causes us anguish  
If death overwhelms us

Open us to hope, O Lord  
Open us to hope, O Lord

## ANTIPHON *PLEASE KNEEL*

**Christus factus est pro nobis obediens usque ad mortem,  
Mortem autem crucis.**

*Christ became obedient for us even to death, death on the cross.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

### PRAYER

*The strepitus sounds in the darkness.*

*The lighted candle, representing the light of the risen Christ, returns.*

*The ministers depart in silence.*