**Sunday by Sunday on the web**

A Meditation on the Passion and Death 

of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

An Adaptation of Tenebrae for local use

Tenebrae was the medieval Office of Matins sung on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week. *Tenebrae* is the Latin word for darkness. In this adaptation as we listen to the story of the last hours of Jesus’ life candles are extinguished to symbolize the enveloping darkness. The singing of plainsong and moments of silence mark the solemnity of the occasion and in response we find our voice in song and prayer.

 *The service ends with the church in darkness.*

 *Please therefore take care as you leave and depart quietly.*

 *The Lighting of the Candles.*

 *below denotes a candle extinguished*

**Hymn: I am the Light** (AM 665)

 God is light,
 in whom there is no darkness at all.

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

 This is the judgement: light has come into the world,

**All: but the people loved darkness rather than light.**

**Reading: John 18.1–11** Jesus is arrested****

**Psalm 59.1–4**

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
   protect me from those who rise up against me.

Deliver me from those who work evil; from the bloodthirsty save me.

Even now they lie in wait for my life; the mighty stir up strife against me.

For no transgression or sin of mine, O Lord,
   for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.

Rouse yourself, come to my help and see!

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**Hymn: This is the night** (AM 173)

**Reading: John 18.12­­–27** Peter disowns Jesus


**Psalm 31.11–13**

Because of all my enemies,

 I am the utter contempt of my neighbours;
I am a dread to my friends –

 those who see me on the street flee from me.

I am forgotten by them as though I were dead;
    I have become like broken pottery.

For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side;
they conspire against me
    and plot to take my life.

**Reading: John 18.28–40** Jesus before Pilate

**Hymn: Behold the Lamb of God** (AM 831)

**Reading: John 19.1–16a** Jesus is handed over

**Psalm 71.9–12**

Do not cast me away when I am old;
   do not forsake me when my strength is gone.

For my enemies speak against me;

   those who wait to kill me conspire together.

They say, ‘God has forsaken him;
   pursue him and seize him, for no one will rescue him.’

Be not far from me, O God; come quickly, O my God, to help me.

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**Hymn: This is your coronation** (AM 183)

**Reading: John 19:16b–22**  Jesus is taken to the Place of the Skull

**Psalm 25.16–21**

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish.

Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

See how my enemies have increased and how fiercely they hate me!

Guard my life and rescue me;
   let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

May integrity and uprightness protect me,
   because my hope is in you.

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**Reading: John 19:23–30** Jesus is crucified

**Psalm 22.11–16**

Do not be far from me,
    for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
    and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
    you lay me in the dust of death.

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,
   they have pierced my hands and my feet.

**Hymn: How deep the Father’s love for us** (AM 144)

**Reading: John 19.31–37**  Jesus is taken down from the cross

**Psalm 88.3–6**

For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave.

I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
    I am like a man without strength.

I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,
    whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.

You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.

**Taizé chant: Within our darkest night** (AM 847)

**Prayers**

**Reading:John 19.38–42** Jesus is buried



 *Silence is kept*

**Recorded Music: Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)**

(Hildegard von Bingen: Heavenly Revelations, recorded by Oxford Camerata, Naxos, 8.550998)

**Psalm 16.7–11**

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
   even at night my heart instructs me.

I have set the Lord always before me.
   Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
   my body also will rest secure,

because you will not abandon me to the grave,
   nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

You have made known to me the path of life;
  you will fill me with joy in your presence,
   with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

 *The congregation is invited to leave quietly.*

Settings of the plainsong psalms (using the *Common Worship Psalter)* are available to download from [www.rscm.com/sbys](http://www.rscm.com/sbys)

Hymn numbers are from *Ancient & Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*

(Hymns Ancient & Modern 2013)

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