



# **The Tenebrae of Maundy Thursday**

The Evening of  
Wednesday in Holy Week

# Welcome to Lincoln Cathedral

‘Tenebrae’ means shadows or darkness. This service is a version of Matins and Lauds, which in the ancient Western monastic tradition are traditionally sung just after midnight and at dawn respectively. During the late Mediaeval period, these services were often sung the previous evening in anticipation. This service is the Tenebrae of Maundy Thursday, held in anticipation on Wednesday evening.

During this service, we move from light into darkness as candles are extinguished. This can represent the disciples abandoning Jesus as he moved closer to his death. Eventually, only one candle remains, which during the final canticle is hidden. The light of Christ, which remains lit behind the altar, is no longer seen and we are left in darkness. The ‘strepitus’ (a loud noise) symbolises the earthquake that occurred after Christ died. Like the watching crowd, we recognise Jesus, and the light is revealed once more before being extinguished after we depart.

*Any indications for sitting, kneeling or standing are given for guidance. If you need to sit at any point during the service, please feel free to do so.*

**Your generosity enables God’s praises to continue to be sung, and the cathedral to continue to be a place of peace and sanctuary.**

**Thank you.**

*If you wish to make a contactless contribution to the work of the cathedral, there are contactless donation points around the cathedral. You can also donate to the cathedral via this QR code:*



# The Order of Tenebrae of Maundy Thursday

*The ministers enter in silence and proceed to their places. The Office then begins immediately with the antiphon of the first psalm. The congregation sits for the singing of the psalms.*

## Mattins - Nocturn I

### PSALMODY

Psalm 69

*This antiphon is sung before and after the psalm*

The zeal of thine house hath even eaten me:  
and the rebukes of them that rebuked thee  
are fallen upon me.

*At the end of the psalm, the following response is said*

Let them be turned backward and put to confusion  
*All* **that wish to do me evil.**

### FIRST LESSON

Lamentations 1.1-5

*At the end of the lesson two candles are extinguished.*

### RESPONSORY

In monte Oliveti

*In monte Oliveti oravit ad  
patrem: 'Pater si fieri potest  
transeat a me calix iste.  
Spiritus quidem promptus  
est caro autem infirma.  
Fiat voluntas tua.'*

On the Mount of Olives  
he prayed to his Father:  
"Father, if it be possible,  
let this cup pass from me.  
The spirit indeed is willing,  
but the flesh is weak.  
Let your will be done."

*Music: Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784)*

*Words: cf. Matthew 26.39,41-42*

### SECOND LESSON

Lamentations 1.6-9

*At the end of the lesson two candles are extinguished.*

## RESPONSORY

### Tristis est anima mea

*Tristis est anima mea*

*usque ad mortem:*

*sustinete hic et vigilate mecum.*

*Nunc videbitis turbam quæ*

*circumdabit me.*

*Vos fugam capietis,*

*et ego vadam immolari pro vobis.*

Sorrowful is my soul

even unto death.

Stay here, and watch with me.

Now you shall see the mob that  
will surround me.

You shall take flight, and I shall go  
to be sacrificed for you.

*Music: Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784)*

*Words: cf. Matthew 26.38*

## THIRD LESSON

### Lamentations 1.10-14

*At the end of the lesson two candles are extinguished.*

## RESPONSORY

### Ecce vidimus

*Ecce vidimus eum non habentem  
speciem, neque decorem:*

*Aspectus ejus in eo non est:*

*Hic peccata nostra portavit,*

*et pro nobis dolet:*

*Ipse autem vulneratus est,*

*propter iniquitates nostras:*

*Cujus livore sanati sumus.*

Behold we shall see him having  
neither form nor comeliness:

There is no beauty in him.

This is he who has borne our sins  
and suffered for us.

He was bruised for our iniquities,  
and with his stripes  
we are healed.

*Music: Plainsong*

*Words: cf. Isaiah 53.2,4,5*

## At Lauds

## PSALMODY

### Psalm 90

*This antiphon is sung before and after the psalm*

He was led as a sheep to the slaughter:  
and he opened not his mouth.

## PSALMODY

### Psalm 36

*This antiphon is sung before and after the psalm*

My heart within me is broken: all my bones shake.

*At the end of the psalms, the following response is said*

Mine own, familiar friend whom I trusted:

*All*      **who also did eat of my bread, hath laid great wait for me.**

## CANTICLE

## Benedictus

Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying:  
Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; hold him fast.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :  
in the house of his servant David;  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :  
which have been since the world began;  
That we should be saved from our enemies :  
and from the hand of all that hate us.  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :  
and to remember his holy Covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather  
Abraham : that he would give us;  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies :  
might serve him without fear;  
In holiness and righteousness before him :  
all the days of our life.  
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God :  
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow  
of death : and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying:  
Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; hold him fast.

*After the canticle, during the repetition of the antiphon, the remaining candle is taken and hidden behind the altar.*

## ANTHEM

Christus factus est *Matteo Asola*

*Christus factus est pro nobis  
obediens usque ad mortem,  
mortem autem crucis.  
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit  
illum et dedit illi nomen,  
quod est super omne nomen.*

Christ became obedient for us  
even to death on the cross.  
Therefore God has exalted him  
and given him a name which is  
above all other names.

*Music: Matteo Asola (1532-1609)*

*Words: Philippians 2.8-9*

## PSALMODY

Psalm 51

*After the singing of the anthem there is a period of silence, which ends with the reciting of the psalm which is said by all slowly and quietly*

*All*

**Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great  
goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies  
do away mine offences.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I acknowledge my faults:  
and my sin is ever before me.**

**Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in  
thy sight: that thou mightest be justified in thy saying,  
and clear when thou art judged.**

**Behold, I was shapen in wickedness:  
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.**

**But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:  
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.**

**Thou shalt purge me with hyssop,  
and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me,  
and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:  
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.**

**Turn thy face from my sins:  
and put out all my misdeeds.**

**Make me a clean heart, O God:  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence:  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.  
O give me the comfort of thy help again:  
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.  
Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked:  
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.  
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God,  
thou that art the God of my health:  
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.  
Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord:  
and my mouth shall shew thy praise.  
For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee:  
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken  
and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.  
O be favourable and gracious unto Sion:  
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then shalt thou be pleased  
with the sacrifice of righteousness,  
with the burnt-offerings and oblations: then shall  
they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.**

## **COLLECT**

Almighty Father,  
look with mercy on this your family  
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed  
and given up into the hands of sinners  
and to suffer death upon the cross.

*Nothing further is said; but a noise is made, and the remaining candle is brought  
from its hiding place and replaced on the stand.*

*By its light the ministers and people depart in silence.*

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