

# The Office of Tenebrae

## Psalm 69

- 1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.
- 2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.
- 3 I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.
- 4 More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause;  
mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies.  
What I did not steal must I now restore?
- 5 O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.
- 6 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord GOD of hosts;  
let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.
- 7 For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face.
- 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.
- 9 For zeal for your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.
- 10 When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.
- 11 When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.
- 12 I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.
- 13 But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. an acceptable time, O God,  
in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.
- 14 Deliver me from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.
- 15 Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,  
or the pit close its mouth over me.
- 16 Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
- 17 Hide not your face from your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.
- 18 Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!
- 19 You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you.
- 20 Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair.  
I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.
- 21 They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.
- 22 Let their own table before them become a snare;  
and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.

- 23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see,  
and make their loins tremble continually.
- 24 Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them.
- 25 May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents.
- 26 For they persecute him whom you have struck down,  
and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.
- 27 Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.
- 28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living;  
let them not be enrolled among the righteous.
- 29 But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!
- 30 I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
- 31 This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.
- 32 When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.
- 33 For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.
- 34 Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.
- 35 For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah,  
and people shall dwell there and possess it;
- 36 the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.

## Psalm 70

- 1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!
- 2 Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life!  
Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt!
- 3 Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!"
- 4 May all who seek you and be glad in you!  
May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
- 5 But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!  
You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

## Psalm 71

- 1 In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!
- 2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me!
- 3 Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;  
you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
- 6 Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;  
you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

- 7 I have been as a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.  
8 My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.  
9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.  
10 For my enemies speak concerning me; those who watch for my life consult together  
11 and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."  
12 O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!  
13 May my accusers be put to shame and consumed;  
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered who seek my hurt.  
14 But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.  
15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,  
for their number is past my knowledge.  
16 With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;  
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.  
17 O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.  
18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,  
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.  
19 Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.  
You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?  
20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again;  
from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.  
21 You will increase my greatness and comfort me again.  
22 I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God;  
I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.  
23 My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;  
my soul also, which you have redeemed.  
24 And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long,  
for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.

## **Lamentations 1:1-14**

How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly. Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the LORD has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From the daughter of Zion all her majesty has

departed. Her princes have become like deer that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer. Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and wandering all the precious things that were hers from days of old. When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her, her foes gloated over her; they mocked at her downfall. Jerusalem sinned grievously; therefore she became filthy; all who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; she herself groans and turns her face away. Her uncleanness was in her skirts; she took no thought of her future; therefore her fall is terrible; she has no comforter. "O LORD, behold my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!" The enemy has stretched out his hands over all her precious things; for she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary, those whom you forbade to enter your congregation. All her people groan as they search for bread; they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength. "Look, O LORD, and see, for I am despised." "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger. "From on high he sent fire; into my bones he made it descend; he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back; he has left me stunned, faint all the day long. "My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; they were set upon my neck; he caused my strength to fail; the Lord gave me into the hands of those whom I cannot withstand.

## Psalm 75

- 1 We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.  
We recount your wondrous deeds.
- 2 "At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.
- 3 When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. Selah
- 4 I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn;  
5 do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.'"
- 6 For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,  
7 but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.
- 8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed,  
and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.
- 9 But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
- 10 All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

## Psalm 76

- 1 In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel.
- 2 His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.
- 3 There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. Selah.
- 4 Glorious are you, more majestic than the mountains full of prey.
- 5 The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil; they sank into sleep;  
all the men of war were unable to use their hands.

6 At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned.  
7 But you, you are to be feared! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused?  
8 From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still,  
9 when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. Selah  
10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.  
11 Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them;  
let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared,  
12 who cuts off the spirit of princes, who is to be feared by the kings of the earth.

## Psalm 77

1 I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me.  
2 In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;  
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.  
3 When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. Selah  
4 You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.  
5 I consider the days of old, the years long ago.  
6 I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart."  
Then my spirit made a diligent search:  
7 "Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable?  
8 Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time?  
9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah  
10 Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High."  
11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.  
12 I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.  
13 Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?  
14 You are the God who works wonders;  
you have made known your might among the peoples.  
15 You with your arm redeemed your people, children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah  
16 When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
indeed, the deep trembled.  
17 The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder;  
your arrows flashed on every side.  
18 The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.  
19 Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.  
20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

## John 13

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give

to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

## **Benedictus-Luke 1:68-79**

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;  
to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*The People kneel*

*Celebrant* Christ, for our sakes, became obedient unto death:

*People* **Even unto the death of the cross.**

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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Psalm 51

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;  
then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to behold 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; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever, one God, world without end. Amen.



## Scripture and Liturgy

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