

## Good Friday Worship: Tenebrae

April 10, 2009

*The word tenebrae means “darkness” and refers to a worship service in which the progressive extinguishing of candles represent the approaching death of Christ. The Tenebrae service is one of prolonged meditation of the suffering of Christ. The service is divided into seven chief parts. The division is modeled after the seven-recorded statements of Christ from the cross. At the end of each part the sanctuary will become darker. At the end of the service, the church will be very dark. No offering will be taken during the service. As you leave in complete silence you may place your offering in the plate at the back of the church.*



### PSALM 2

#### Antiphon

**M:** The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

**M:** Why do the nations conspire

**C:** **And the peoples plot in vain?**

**M:** The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together

**C:** **Against the LORD and against his Anointed One.**

**M:** “Let us break their chains,” they say,

**C:** **“And throw off their fetters.”**

**M:** The One enthroned in heaven laughs;

**C:** **The Lord scoffs at them.**

**M:** Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

**C:** **“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”**

**M:** I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:

**C:** **He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.**

**M:** Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,

**C:** **The ends of the earth your possession.**

**M:** You will rule them with an iron scepter;

**C:** **You will dash them to pieces like pottery.”**

**M:** Therefore, you kings, be wise;

**C: Be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

**M:** Serve the LORD with fear.

**C: And rejoice with trembling.**

**M:** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

**C: Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

**M:** The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

*The first candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for meditation.*

## **Psalm 22:1-21**

### **Antiphon**

**M:** They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

**M:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C: Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?**

**M:** My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

**C: By night, and am not silent.**

**M:** Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;

**C: You are the praise of Israel.**

**M:** In you our fathers put their trust;

**C: They trusted and you delivered them.**

**M:** They cried to you and were saved;

**C: In you they trusted and were not disappointed.**

**M:** But I am a worm and not a man,

**C: Scorned by men and despised by the people.**

**M:** All who see me mock me;

**C: They hurl insults, shaking their heads:**

**M:** "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

**C: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."**

**M:** Yet you brought me out of the womb;  
**C:** **You made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.**  
**M:** From birth I was cast upon you;  
**C:** **From my mother's womb you have been my God.**  
**M:** Do not be far from me,  
**C:** **For trouble is near and there is no one to help.**  
**M:** Many bulls surround me;  
**C:** **Strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**  
**M:** Roaring lions tearing their prey  
**C:** **Open their mouths wide against me.**  
**M:** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.  
**C:** **My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.**  
**M:** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
**C:** **You lay me in the dust of death.**  
**M:** Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,  
**C:** **They have pierced my hands and my feet.**  
**M:** I can count all my bones;  
**C:** **People stare and gloat over me.**  
**M:** They divide my garments among them  
**C:** **And cast lots for my clothing.**  
**M:** But you, O LORD, be not far off;  
**C:** **O my Strength, come quickly to help me.**  
**M:** Deliver my life from the sword,  
**C:** **My precious life from the power of the dogs.**  
**M:** Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;  
**C:** **You have heard me from the horns of the wild oxen.**  
**M:** They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

*The second candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for meditation.*

## PSALM 27

### Antiphon

**M:** False witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

**M:** The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

**C:** **The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?**

**M:** When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,

**C:** **When my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.**

**M:** Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

**C:** **Though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.**

**M:** One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

**C:** **That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.**

**M:** For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

**C:** **He will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.**

**M:** Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

**C:** **At his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

**M:** Hear my voice when I call, O Lord.

**C:** **Be merciful to me and answer**

**M:** My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”

**C:** **Your face, LORD, I will seek.**

**M:** Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

**C:** **Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.**

**M:** Though my father and mother forsake me,

**C:** **The LORD will receive me.**

**M:** Teach me your way, O LORD;

**C:** **Lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.**

**M:** Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,

**C: For false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.**

**M:** I am still confident of this:

**C: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

**M:** Wait for the LORD;

**C: Be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**

**M:** False witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

*The third candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for meditation.*

### **SEEK THE LORD** Isaiah 55:6-11

**M:** Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way  
and the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return to it without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty;  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

*The fourth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for meditation.*

### **Lamentations 1:1-5**

How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!  
How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!  
She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks.  
Among all her lovers there is none to comfort her.  
All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.  
After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile.  
She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.  
All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.  
The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed feasts.  
All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan,  
her maidens grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.  
Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease.  
The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins.  
Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

### **Lamentations 1:6-9**

All the splendor has departed from the Daughter of Zion.  
Her princes are like deer that find no pasture;  
in weakness they have fled before the pursuer.  
In the days of her affliction and wandering, Jerusalem remembers all the treasures that were  
hers in days of old.  
When her people fell into enemy hands there was no one to help her.  
Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction.  
Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean.  
All who honored her despise her nakedness;  
she herself groans and turns away.  
Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future.  
Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her.  
'Look, O Lord, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed.'

### **Lamentations 1:10-14**

The enemy laid hands on all her treasures;  
she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary—  
those you had forbidden to enter your assembly.  
All her people groan as they search for bread;  
they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive.  
'Look, O Lord, and consider, for I am despised.  
'Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see.  
Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me,

that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?

‘From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones.  
He spread a net for my feet and turned me back.  
He made me desolate, faint all the day long.

‘My sins have been bound into a yoke;  
by his hands they were woven together.  
They have come upon my neck and the Lord has sapped my strength.  
He has handed me over to those I cannot withstand.’

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

*Silence for meditation.*

## **PSALM 51**

**M:** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin always before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.  
Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.  
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.  
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.  
Then will I teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.  
Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.  
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.  
In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

*The sixth candle is extinguished.*

*The seventh candle is carried from the chancel.*