

Tenebrae Vespers

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*All enter in silence.*

*Stand*

**Opening Versicles**

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**  
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**  
**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Amos 8:9-10

“And on that day,” declares the Lord GOD,  
“I will make the sun go down at noon  
and darken the earth in broad daylight.  
I will turn your feasts into mourning  
and all your songs into lamentation;  
I will bring sackcloth on every waist  
and baldness on every head;  
I will make it like the mourning for an only son  
and the end of it like a bitter day.”

*One candle is extinguished.*

**Psalm 107:1-3, 10-16**

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
**for his steadfast love endures forever!**  
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
**whom he has redeemed from trouble**

and gathered in from the lands,  
**from the east and from the west,**  
**from the north and from the south.**

Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
**prisoners in affliction and in irons,**  
for they had rebelled against the words of God,  
**and spurned the counsel of the Most High.**  
So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor;  
**they fell down, with none to help.**

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
**and he delivered them from their distress.**  
He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,  
**and burst their bonds apart.**

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
**for his wondrous works to the children of man!**  
For he shatters the doors of bronze  
**and cuts in two the bars of iron.**

*One candle is extinguished.*

## **The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**437** ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED

☐ The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

### **Mark 15:1-20**

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had

delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

*One candle is extinguished.*

**432** IN SILENT PAIN THE ETERNAL SON

*Stand*

### **Mark 15:21-47**

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and

filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

- A** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*One candle is extinguished.*

### **Responsory**

- P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
- P** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.
- C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
- P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

*Sit*

447 JESUS, IN YOUR DYING WOES (Stanzas 10-12)

*One candle is extinguished.*

SERMON

454 SING, MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE

*One candle is extinguished.*

Prayers

- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Christ, have mercy.
- C** **Christ, have mercy.**
- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**
- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The final candle is extinguished.*

*A loud noise is made (the strepitus).*

*All leave in silence with minimal light.*

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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