

# All Saints' Margaret Street

## Tenebræ

Holy Wednesday

27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, 7.30pm



*The name Tenebræ (a Latin word meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows') has for centuries been applied to the ancient monastic night and early morning services (Matins and Lauds) of the last three days of Holy Week, which in medieval times came to be celebrated on the preceding evenings.*

*Our celebration tonight is a truncated version of the full service, and forms a fitting introduction to the last three days of Holy Week.*

*The psalms and readings lead into Maundy Thursday, the day of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, overshadowed by the impending passion and death of the Saviour.*

*Apart from the chant of the Lamentations (in which each verse is introduced by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet) the most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, understood as a symbol of Our Lord, remains.*

*Towards the end of the service this candle is hidden, representing the apparent victory of the forces of evil.*

*At the very end a loud noise is made, symbolising the earthquake at the time of the Resurrection (Matthew 28.2). The hidden candle is then restored to its place, and by its light all depart in silence.*

*Please stand for the entry of the choir and ministers.*

*Please then remain standing and say silently the*  
**OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY and APOSTLES' CREED.**

*After these have been recited, the cantor intones the first Antiphon, continued by the choir.*

*After the first psalm has been intoned all sit. Please then remain seated unless otherwise directed.*

# MATINS

## NOCTURN 1

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

### PSALM 69

Save me, O God : for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.

2 I stick fast in the deep mire, where no ground is :

I am come into deep waters, so that the floods run over me.

3 I am weary of crying; my throat is dry :

my sight faileth me for waiting so long upon my God.

4 They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head :  
they that are mine enemies, and would destroy me guiltless, are mighty.

5 I paid them the things that I never took :

God, thou knowest my simpleness, and my faults are not hid from thee.

6 Let not them that trust in thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my cause :  
let not those that seek thee be confounded through me, O Lord God of Israel.

7 And why? for thy sake have I suffered reproof : shame hath covered my face.

8 I am become a stranger unto my brethren : even an alien unto my mother's children.

9 For the zeal of thine house hath even eaten me :

and the rebukes of them that rebuked thee are fallen upon me.

10 I wept, and chastened myself with fasting : and that was turned to my reproof.

11 I put on sackcloth also : and they jested upon me.

12 They that sit in the gate speak against me : and the drunkards make songs upon me.

13 But, Lord, I make my prayer unto thee : in an acceptable time.

14 Hear me, O God, in the multitude of thy mercy : even in the truth of thy salvation.

15 Take me out of the mire, that I sink not :

O let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.

16 Let not the water-flood drown me, neither let the deep swallow me up :  
and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

17 Hear me, O Lord, for thy loving-kindness is comfortable :  
turn thee unto me according to the multitude of thy mercies.

18 And hide not thy face from thy servant, for I am in trouble: O haste thee, and hear me.

19 Draw nigh unto my soul, and save it : O deliver me, because of mine enemies.

20 Thou hast known my reproof, my shame, and my dishonour :  
mine adversaries are all in thy sight.

21 Thy rebuke hath broken my heart; I am full of heaviness :

I looked for some to have pity on me, but there was no man, neither found I any to comfort me.

22 They gave me gall to eat : and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

23 Let their table be made a snare to take themselves withal : and let the things that should  
have been for their wealth be unto them an occasion of falling.

24 Let their eyes be blinded, that they see not : and ever bow thou down their backs.

25 Pour out thine indignation upon them :

and let thy wrathful displeasure take hold of them.

26 Let their habitation be void : and no man to dwell in their tents.

27 For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten :  
and they talk how they may vex them whom thou hast wounded.  
28 Let them fall from one wickedness to another : and not come into thy righteousness.  
29 Let them be wiped out of the book of the living :  
and not be written among the righteous.  
30 As for me, when I am poor and in heaviness : thy help, O God, shall lift me up.  
31 I will praise the Name of God with a song : and magnify it with thanksgiving.  
32 This also shall please the Lord : better than a bullock that hath horns and hoofs.  
33 The humble shall consider this, and be glad : seek ye after God, and your soul shall live.  
34 For the Lord heareth the poor : and despiseth not his prisoners.  
35 Let heaven and earth praise him : the sea, and all that moveth therein.  
36 For God will save Sion, and build the cities of Judah :  
that men may dwell there, and have it in possession.  
37 The posterity also of his servants shall inherit it :  
and they that love his Name shall dwell therein.

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

V. Let them be turned backward and put to confusion. R. That wish me evil.

**THE FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah

#### **RESPONSORY**

On the Mount of Olives he prayed to the Father:  
Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.  
The spirit indeed is willing: but the flesh is weak  
Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:  
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

V. Watch and pray. R. That ye enter not into temptation.

**THE SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah

#### **RESPONSORY**

My soul is exceeding sorrowful: Even unto death.  
Tarry ye here and watch with me:  
Now shall ye see the multitude which shall come about me.  
Ye shall flee: And I go to be offered up for you.  
Behold the hour is at hand: And the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.  
Ye shall flee: And I go to be offered up for you.

**THE THIRD LESSON** A reading from the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah

#### **RESPONSORY**

Lo, we have seen him without form or comeliness:  
His look is gone from him. He hath borne our sins and mourneth for us:  
But he was wounded for our transgressions; with his stripes we are healed.

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: with his stripes we are healed.  
Lo, we have seen him without form or comeliness: His look is gone from him.  
He hath borne our sins and mourneth for us:  
But he was wounded for our transgressions; with his stripes we are healed.

### **NOCTURN 3**

*The earth trembled and was still : when God arose to judgement.*

#### **PSALM 76**

In Jewry is God known : his Name is great in Israel.  
2 At Salem is his tabernacle : and his dwelling in Sion.  
3 There brake he the arrows of the bow : the shield, the sword, and the battle.  
4 Thou art of more honour and might : than the hills of the robbers.  
5 The proud are robbed, they have slept their sleep :  
and all the men whose hands were mighty have found nothing.  
6 At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob : both the chariot and horse are fallen.  
7 Thou, even thou art to be feared : and who may stand in thy sight when thou art angry?  
8 Thou didst cause thy judgement to be heard from heaven :  
the earth trembled, and was still;  
9 When God arose to judgement : and to help all the meek upon earth.  
10 The fierceness of man shall turn to thy praise :  
and the fierceness of them shalt thou refrain.  
11 Promise unto the Lord your God, and keep it, all ye that are round about him :  
bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.  
12 He shall refrain the spirit of princes : and is wonderful among the kings of the earth.

*The earth trembled and was still : when God arose to judgement.*

*In the time of my trouble : I sought the Lord.*

#### **PSALM 77**

I will cry unto God with my voice :  
even unto God will I cry with my voice, and he shall hearken unto me.  
2 In the time of my trouble I sought the Lord :  
my sore ran and ceased not in the night-season; my soul refused comfort.  
3 When I am in heaviness, I will think upon God : when my heart is vexed, I will complain.  
4 Thou holdest mine eyes waking : I am so feeble, that I cannot speak.  
5 I have considered the days of old : and the years that are past.  
6 I call to remembrance my song :  
and in the night I commune with mine own heart, and search out my spirits.  
7 Will the Lord absent himself for ever : and will he be no more intreated?  
8 Is his mercy clean gone for ever : and is his promise come utterly to an end for evermore?  
9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious :  
and will he shut up his loving-kindness in displeasure?  
10 And I said, It is mine own infirmity :  
but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most Highest.  
11 I will remember the works of the Lord : and call to mind thy wonders of old time.

12 I will think also of all thy works : and my talking shall be of thy doings.  
13 Thy way, O God, is holy : who is so great a God as our God?  
14 Thou art the God that doeth wonders : and hast declared thy power among the people.  
15 Thou hast mightily delivered thy people : even the sons of Jacob and Joseph.  
16 The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee, and were afraid :  
the depths also were troubled.  
17 The clouds poured out water, the air thundered : and thine arrows went abroad.  
18 The voice of thy thunder was heard round about :  
the lightnings shone upon the ground; the earth was moved, and shook withal.  
19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy paths in the great waters :  
and thy footsteps are not known.  
20 Thou leddest thy people like sheep : by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

*In the time of my trouble : I sought the Lord.*

V. Arise, O God. R. Maintain my cause.

**THE SEVENTH LESSON** A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

**RESPONSORY**

I was like a lamb that is innocent: I was brought to the slaughter and I knew it not.  
Mine enemies have taken counsel against me saying:  
Come, let us put wood into his bread, and let us root him out of the land of the living.  
All mine enemies have taught evil against me, saying:  
And have spoken unjustly against me, saying:  
Come, let us put wood into his bread:  
And let us root him out of the land of the living.

**THE EIGHTH LESSON** A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

**RESPONSORY**

Could ye not watch with me one hour: Who were ready to die for me?  
O see ye not Judas, how he sleepeth not: But hasteneth to deliver me up to the Jews?  
Why sleep ye? Arise and pray: That ye enter not into temptation.  
O see ye not Judas, how he sleepeth not: But hasteneth to deliver me up to the Jews?

**THE NINTH LESSON** A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

**RESPONSORY**

The elders of the people took counsel:  
how they might take Jesus by subtilty, and put him to death.  
They went out as against a thief: with swords and staves

# LAUDS

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

## PSALM 90

Lord, thou hast been our refuge : from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made : thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

3 Thou turnest man to destruction : again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yester-day : seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

5 As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep : and fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green, and groweth up : but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

7 For we consume away in thy displeasure : and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

8 Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee : and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

9 For when thou art angry all our days are gone : we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

10 The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years :

yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow; so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

11 But who regardeth the power of thy wrath : for even thereafter as a man feareth, so is thy displeasure.

12 So teach us to number our days : that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

13 Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last : and be gracious unto thy servants.

14 O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that soon : so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15 Comfort us again now after the time that thou hast plagued us : and for the years wherein we have suffered adversity.

16 Shew thy servants thy work : and their children thy glory.

17 And the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us : prosper thou the work of our hands upon us, O prosper thou our handywork.

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

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

## PSALM 36

My heart sheweth me the wickedness of the ungodly : that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

2 For he flattereth himself in his own sight : until his abominable sin be found out.

3 The words of his mouth are unrighteous, and full of deceit : he hath left off to behave himself wisely, and to do good.

4 He imagineth mischief upon his bed, and hath set himself in no good way : neither doth he abhor any thing that is evil.

5 Thy mercy, O Lord, reacheth unto the heavens : and thy faithfulness unto the clouds.

6 Thy righteousness standeth like the strong mountains :  
thy judgements are like the great deep.

7 Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast; How excellent is thy mercy, O God :  
and the children of men shall put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of thy house :  
and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures, as out of the river.

9 For with thee is the well of life : and in thy light shall we see light.

10 O continue forth thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee :  
and thy righteousness unto them that are true of heart.

11 O let not the foot of pride come against me :  
and let not the hand of the ungodly cast me down.

12 There are they fallen, all that work wickedness:  
they are cast down, and shall not be able to stand.

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

V. Mine own familiar friend, whom I trusted.

R. Who did also eat of my bread, hath laid great wait for me.

*All now stand.*

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

## **BENEDICTUS**

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

*All kneel. The remaining candle is removed, symbolising the removal of the light of the world in the death of Jesus Christ.*

Christ became obedient for our sakes unto death, even the death of the Cross.  
Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him,  
and hath given him a name which is above every name.

*All say silently the* **OUR FATHER**

**THE MISERERE** *is sung in darkness as a lament for the death of Christ*

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness :  
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.  
2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness : and cleanse me from my sin.  
3 For I acknowledge my faults : and my sin is ever before me.  
4 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.  
5 Behold, I was shapen in wickedness : and in sin hath my mother conceived me.  
6 But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:  
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.  
7 Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean :  
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
8 Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness :  
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.  
9 Turn thy face from my sins : and put out all my misdeeds.  
10 Make me a clean heart, O God : and renew a right spirit within me.  
11 Cast me not away from thy presence : and take not thy holy Spirit from me.  
12 O give me the comfort of thy help again : and stablish me with thy free Spirit.  
13 Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked : and sinners shall be converted unto thee.  
14 Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health :  
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.  
15 Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord : and my mouth shall shew thy praise.  
16 For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee :  
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.  
17 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit :  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.  
18 O be favourable and gracious unto Sion : build thou the walls of Jerusalem.  
19 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.

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy 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.

*The Collect ends abruptly. A loud noise is then made symbolising the earthquake at the time of the Resurrection. The hidden candle is restored to its place, a sign of the victorious power of God over the forces of darkness and death in raising Jesus from the dead. By its light all depart in silence.*