

# at home Tenebrae Service

Light fifteen candles. All take turns reading the sections. A "follower" candle is extinguished after each reading until only the last candle remains. This Christ candle is hidden or taken out of the room after the final prayer. The services end with a "strepitus" or "loud noise" made by slamming a book shut, or stomping on the floor, or banging utensils on the table, symbolizing the earthquake that followed Christ's death. This takes place in darkness. Then the last candle is brought back in, representing the light of Christ returning. A moment is spent in contemplation, then the Christ candle is extinguished and the service is over.

## BENEDICTUS

The prophecy of Zechariah after the birth of his son, John the Baptist, recorded in Luke 1:67-79.

1. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.
2. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
3. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, And to guide our feet into the way of peace.
4. 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.

## CHRISTUS FACTUS EST

From Philippians 2:8-2:9

5. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every Name.

## MISERERE

Psalm 51, also called the Miserere after its opening word in Latin, is used in the Liturgy of the Hours to express repentance for sin.

6. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your merciful love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
7. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgment.

- Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
8. Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness; let the bones which you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
  9. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
  10. Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise. For you take no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
  11. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
  12. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild 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.

## OUR FATHER

13. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
14. 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. Amen.

