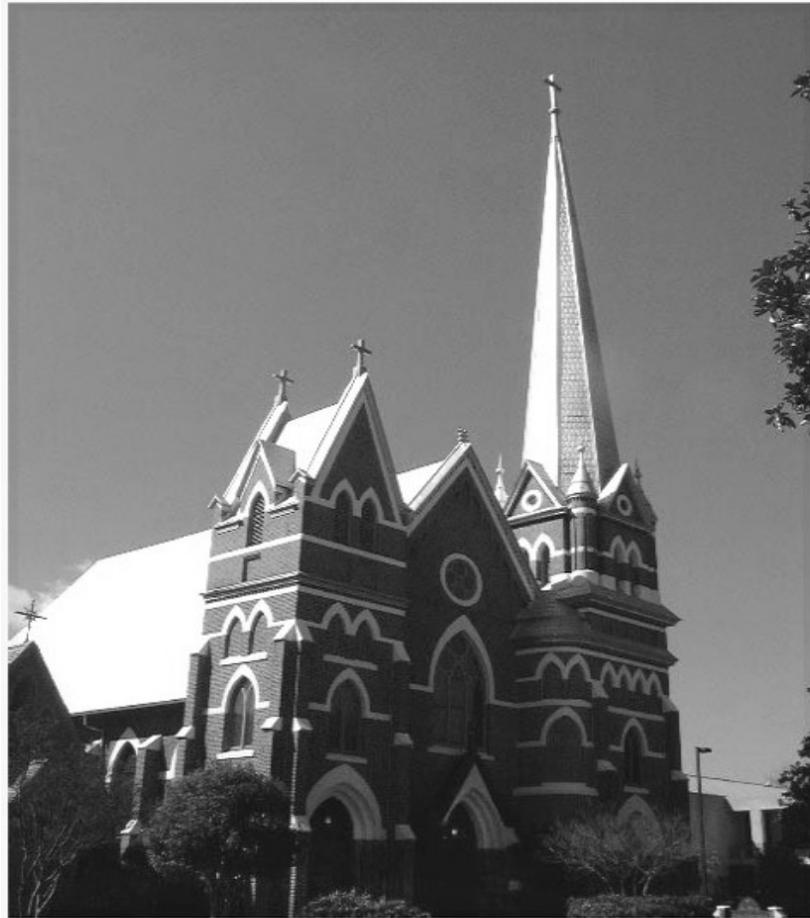


***TENEBRAE
HOLY SATURDAY***



St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church
Aiken, SC
Introduction

Holy Saturday Office of Readings

Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning “shadows or darkness.” It designates a special form of prayer that is prayed by the Church on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The service consists of the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily prayer of the Church. While for several centuries this form of prayer was understood to be the prayer of clergy and religious, the Second Vatican Council made it clear that it belongs to all the Church’s faithful:

“Wherever possible...groups of the faithful should celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours communally in church. This especially applies to parishes.... The laity must learn above all how in the liturgy they are adoring God the Father in spirit and in truth; they should bear in mind that through public worship and prayer they reach all humility and can contribute significantly to the salvation of the whole world.”

-General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours #s 21, 27

The *Tenebrae* Service is dramatically marked by the extinguishing of the seven candles placed in a candle stand in the sanctuary. Originally, the service began before dawn, with candles lighting the darkness. As daylight became stronger, fewer candles were needed, and one by one they were put out. The gradual extinguishing of light, however, took on symbolic meaning associated with these solemn days of the Triduum. Over the centuries, as the Church commemorated the death of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the decreasing candlelight became a sign of the apparent triumph of evil and of the apparent failure of God’s plan of salvation.

At the great Easter Vigil, we celebrate the victory of Christ over sin and evil. The light of the one Paschal Candle, the symbol of the risen Christ, is passed from one to another in the darkness of night. This growing light, which shatters the dark, signifies the good over evil and the spread of the reign of God.

Adapted from *Tenebrae: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer for Good Friday and Holy Saturday*, prepared by the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese of New York, 1990

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

STAND

Celebrant: Lord, open my lips. (✠ on lips)

All: **And my mouth will proclaim your praise.**

Invitatory

Antiphon

Reader: Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God, who redeemed us with his blood.

Psalm 95

Reader: Come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us greet Him with praise and thanksgiving
and sing joyful songs to the Lord.

All: **Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God, who redeemed us with his blood.**

Reader: The Lord is our God, the mighty God,
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in His hand the depths of the earth
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea, it belongs to Him,
the dry land too, for it was formed by His hands.

All: **Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God, who redeemed us with his blood.**

Reader: Come, then, let us bow down and worship,
bending the knee before the Lord, our Maker.
For He is our God and we are His people,
the flock He shepherds.

All: **Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God, who redeemed us with his blood.**

Reader: Today, listen to the voice of the Lord:
“Do not grow stubborn,

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as your fathers did in the wilderness,
when at Meriba and Massah they challenged me and
provoked me,
although they had seen all of my works.

All: **Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God, who
redeemed us with his blood.**

Reader: Forty years I endured that generation.
I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray
and they do not know my ways.
So I swore in my anger,
they shall not enter into my rest.’”

All: **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**

Antiphon

All: **Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God, who
redeemed us with his blood.**

Hymn

O Cross of Christ, Immortal Tree
(Tune of “Lord Who Throughout these 40 Days”)

O Cross of Christ, immortal tree on which our Savior died,
The world is sheltered by your arms that bore the Crucified.

From bitter death and barren wood, the tree of life is made;
Its branches bear unfailing fruit and leaves that never fade.

O faithful Cross, you stand unmoved while ages run their course;
Foundation of the universe, Creation’s binding force.

Give glory to the risen Christ and to His Cross give praise,
The sign of God’s unfathomed love, the hope of all our days.

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

SIT

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

Leader: In peace, I will lie down and sleep.

Psalm 4

Side 1: When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me; have mercy and hear me!

Side 2: O men, how long will your hearts be closed,
will you love what is futile and seek what is false?

Side 1: It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom He loves;
The Lord hears me whenever I call Him.

Side 2: Fear Him; do not sin; ponder on your bed and be still.
Make justice your sacrifice and trust in the Lord.

Side 1: “What can bring us happiness?” many say.
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.

Side 2: You have put into my heart a greater joy
than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.

Side 1: I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 1: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 1

All: **In peace, I will lie down and sleep.**

1st Candle (lower left) is extinguished. Brief period of silence.

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

Antiphon 2

Leader: My body shall rest in hope.

Psalm 16

Side 1: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: "You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone."

Side 2: He has put into my heart a marvelous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in His land.
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.
Never will offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

Side 1: O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is You Yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
Welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

Side 2: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
Since He is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

Side 1: And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

Side 2: You will show me the path of life,
The fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness forever.

Side 1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 2: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

Antiphon 2

All: **My body shall rest in hope.**

2nd Candle (lower right) is extinguished. Brief period of silence.

Antiphon 3

Leader: Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters.

Psalm 24

Side 1: The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is He who set it on the seas;
on the waters He made it firm.

Side 2: Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in His holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive a neighbor.

Side 1: He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek Him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Side 2: O gates, lift high your heads:
Grow higher, ancient doors!
Let Him enter, the king of glory!

Side 1: Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

Side 2: O gates, lift high your heads
Grow higher, ancient doors!
Let Him enter, the king of glory!

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Side 1: Who is He, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
He is the king of glory.

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 1: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 3

All: **Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters.**

3rd Candle (center left) is extinguished. Brief period of silence

First Reading (Hebrews 4: 1-13)

The Lamentations of Jeremiah (1st)

(sung by deacon)

Response:

All: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord, your God.

Brief period of silence

Second Reading

**“The Lord Descends Into Hell”
(From an ancient homily on Holy Saturday)**

Brief period of silence

The Lamentations of Jeremiah (2nd)

(sung by deacon)

Response:

All: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord, your God.

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

STAND

Hymn

The Word of God Proceeding Forth
(Tune of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”)

The word of God, proceeding forth. Yet leaving not his Father’s side,
And going to his work on earth, had reached at length life’s eventide.

Soon by his own false friend betrayed, giv’n to his foes, to death went he;
His own true self, in form of bread, he gave his friends their life to be.

A double gift his love did plan, his flesh to feed, his blood to cheer,
That flesh and blood, the whole of man, might find its own fulfillment here.

The manger, Christ their equal made; that upper room, their souls’ repast;
The cross, their ransom dearly paid, and heav’n their high reward at last.

All praise and thanks to thee ascend, for evermore, blest one in three.
O grant us life that shall not end, in our true native land with thee.

SIT

Psalmody

Antiphon 1

Leader: Though sinless, the Lord has been put to death.
 The world is in mourning as for an only son.

Psalm 64

Side 1: Hear my voice, O God, as I complain,
 guard my life from dread of the foe.
 Hide me from the ban of the wicked,
 from the throng of those who do evil.

Side 2: They sharpen their tongues like swords;

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Office of Readings**

they aim bitter words like arrows
to shoot at the innocent from ambush,
shooting suddenly and recklessly.

Side 1: They scheme their evil course;
they conspire to lay secret snares.
They say: "Who will see us?
Who can search out our crimes?"

Side 2: He will search who searches the mind
and knows the depth of the heart.
God has shot them with His arrow
and dealt them sudden wounds.
Their own tongue has brought them ruin
and all who see them mock.

Side 1: Then will all men fear;
they will tell what God has done.
The just will rejoice in the Lord
and fly to him for refuge.
All the upright hearts will glory.

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 1: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen

Antiphon 1

All: **Though sinless, the Lord has been put to death.
The world is in mourning as for an only son.**

4th Candle (center right) is extinguished. Brief period of silence

Antiphon 2

Leader: From the jaws of hell,
Lord, rescue my soul.

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

Canticle - Isaiah 38:10- 14, 17-20

- Side 1:* Once I said,
“In the noontime of life I must depart!
To the gates of the netherworld I shall be consigned
for the rest of my years.”
- Side 2:* I said, “I shall see the Lord no more
in the land of the living.
No longer shall I behold my fellow men
among those who dwell in the world.”
- Side 1:* My dwelling, like a shepherd’s tent,
is struck down and borne away from me;
you have folded up my life, like a weaver
who severs the last thread.
- Side 2:* Day and night you give me over to torment;
I cry out until the dawn.
Like a lion he breaks all my bones;
day and night you give me over to torment.
- Side 1:* Like a swallow I utter shrill cries;
I moan like a dove.
My eyes grow weak, gazing heavenward:
O Lord, I am in straits; be my surety!
- Side 2:* You have preserved my life
from the pit of destruction,
when you cast behind your back
all my sins.
- Side 1:* For it is not the netherworld that gives you thanks,
nor death that praises you,
neither do those who go down into the pit
await your kindness.
- Side 2:* The living, the living, give you thanks,
as I do today.
Fathers declare to their sons,
O God, your faithfulness.

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Office of Readings**

Side 1: The Lord is our savior;
we shall sing to stringed instruments
in the house of the Lord
all the days of our life.

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 1: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 2

All: **From the jaws of hell,
Lord, rescue my soul.**

5th Candle (top left) is extinguished. Brief period of silence

Antiphon 3

Leader: I was dead, but now I live forever,
and I hold the keys of death and of hell.

Psalm 150

Side 1: Praise God in His holy place,
praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His powerful deeds;
praise His surpassing greatness.

Side 2: O praise Him with sound of trumpet,
praise Him with lute and harp.
Praise Him with timbrel and dance,
praise Him with strings and pipes.

Side 1: O praise Him with resounding cymbals,
praise Him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 1: as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 2

All: **I was dead, but now I live for ever,
 and I hold the keys of death and of hell.**

6th candle (top right) is extinguished. Brief period of silence.

Third Reading (*Hosea 5:15b – 16:2*)

The Lamentations of Jeremiah (2nd)

(sung by deacon)

Response:

All: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord, your God.

STAND

Gospel Cantic Antiphon

Leader: Save us, O Savior of the world.
 On the cross you redeemed us by the shedding of your blood;
 we cry for your help, O God.

Canticle of Zechariah

All: **(✠) 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.**

**Holy Saturday
Office of Readings**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**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 all the days of our life.**

**You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go and 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.**

**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.**

Gospel Cantic Antiphon

All: **Save us, O Savior of the world.
On the cross you redeemed us by the shedding of your blood;
we cry for your help, O God.**

7th Candle (center) extinguished. Brief period of silence.

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Office of Readings**

Intercessions

Celebrant: Our redeemer suffered and was buried for us in order to rise again. With sincere love we adore Him, and aware of our needs we cry out:

All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Reader: Christ our Savior, your sorrowing Mother stood by you at your death and burial, in our sorrow may we share your suffering.

All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Reader: Christ our Lord, like the seed buried in the ground you brought forth for us the harvest of grace, may we die to sin and live to God.

All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Reader: Christ, the Good Shepherd, in death you lay hidden from the world, teach us to love a life hidden with you in the Father.

All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Reader: Christ, the new Adam, you entered the kingdom of death to release all the just since the beginning of the world, may all who lie dead in sin hear your voice and rise to life.

All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Reader: Christ, Son of the living God, through baptism we were buried with you; risen also with you in baptism, may we walk in newness of life.

All: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as Jesus our Lord taught us:

All: **Our Father...**

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Closing Prayer

Celebrant: All-powerful and ever living God,
your only Son went down among the dead
and rose again in glory.
In your goodness
raise up your faithful people,
buried with Him in baptism,
to be one with Him
in the eternal life of heaven,
where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: May almighty God bless you,
(✠)the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Go in peace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

All depart in silence.