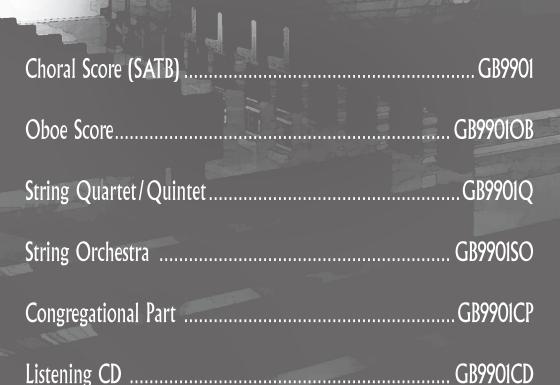
TENEBRAE

A Service of Darkness

by Hal H. Hopson



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| PRELUDE | NINTH READING |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| GREETING | TENTH READING |
| OPENING HYMN | MUSICAL RESPONSE |
| O Sacred Head, Now Wounded | Ah, Holy Jesus |
| (Choir and Congregation) | (Choir and Congregation)66 |
| A BIDDING PRAYER | ELEVENTH READING |
| THE SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS21 | TWELFTH READING |
| MUSICAL RESPONSE | THIRTEENTH READING |
| All Who Pass This Way | |
| (Choir and Congregation) | MUSICAL RESPONSE |
| | Crucify Him! (<i>Choir</i>) |
| FIRST READING | |
| | FOURTEENTH READING83 |
| SECOND READING38 | |
| | FIFTEENTH READING |
| THIRD READING | |
| | MUSICAL RESPONSE |
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| | SIXTEENTH READING |
| MUSICAL RESPONSE | |
| The Cup of Love (Psalm 116) | MUSICAL RESPONSE |
| (Cantor [or Choir] and Congregation) | Ah, Holy Jesus (Instrumental) |
| SIXTH READING | SEVENTEENTH READING110 |
| SEVENTH READING45 | MUSICAL INTERLUDE |
| | The Earthquake (Instrumental) |
| MUSICAL RESPONSE | |
| Could You Not Watch | MUSICAL RESPONSE |
| (Choir and Congregation) | Were You There (Choir) |
| EIGHTH READING | THE DISMISSAL |

1. PRELUDE*



^{*} The Prelude is optional. In a traditional service of Tenebrae the congregation gathers in silence.





GREETING (Congregation standing)

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

Who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

2. O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

for SATB choir, congregation and organ, with optional oboe and strings



EIGHTH READING (Jesus is betrayed by Judas and then is seized by the Roman soldiers)

Jesus had not finished speaking before Judas, one of his own disciples, arrived with a group of Roman soldiers and other armed men from the Temple. Now the betrayer had arranged with the authorities for a sign and had said, "The man whom I kiss is the one you want." In accord with this arrangement, Judas went directly to Jesus and cried out, "Greetings, Master." Then he gave him the kiss. Jesus responded, "Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?"

Immediately the soldiers laid hands on Jesus and held him fast. Then one of the disciples with Jesus drew his sword and cut off an ear from the slave of the high priest; but Jesus said to him, "Sheathe your sword. All who take up the sword will perish by the sword. Do you not know that I can call upon my Father and that he will respond at once with more than twelve legions of angels?" Then turning to the mob, Jesus continued, "Have you come for me as against a rebel bandit with swords and clubs? Why did you not seize me in the Temple, where I sat teaching by day? Were you so afraid of the religious authorities that you must come for me by stealth? Nevertheless, your actions are fulfilling the words of the prophets." Then all of his disciples forsook him and fled.

(The sixth candle is extinguished)

NINTH READING (Jesus' trial begins in the court of the high priest Caiaphas)

Those who had seized Jesus brought him to Caiaphas, whom the Romans had made a high priest. Peter followed at a distance as far as the courtyard. There he sat with the attendants and warmed himself by the fire. The high priest had gathered his whole council, and they began to arrange the case against Jesus which they would present to Pontius Pilate, the governor. The charge was that Jesus claimed to be King of the Jews, and they brought in many false witnesses, but to no avail. Finally two came forward and testified, "We heard this man say, 'I will tear down this temple made with hands and within three days build another not made with hands." The testimony was evidence that Jesus claimed an authority over temple affairs which traditionally belonged only to the rulers of Israel, and in those days Israel was ruled from Rome. Yet even these witnesses were unable to agree on their testimony.

Finally Caiaphas stood up and examined Jesus directly. "Have you no answer to these charges?" demanded the high priest. Jesus remained silent and answered nothing. Then the high priest put the question of kingship in terms of the royal titles "Anointed" and "Son of God." "Are you the Anointed One, the Son of the Blessed?" he probed. Jesus answered, "I am, and you shall see the Son of man seated on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven." The high priest turned and said, "What need have we of witnesses? He has condemned himself." They all concurred that Jesus was indeed worthy of death.

Then those holding Jesus began to spit on him. They covered his face and were striking him as they taunted him and said, "O Anointed One, prophesy who it is who is striking you."

(The seventh candle is extinguished)

TENTH READING (Peter denies having any knowledge of Jesus)

Now Peter was warming himself in the courtyard when a small slave girl entered. She confronted Peter and said, "You also were with this Jesus the Nazarene." Peter quickly gave a denial. "I do not know what you are talking about," he replied and went outside into the gateway. Meanwhile, the cock crowed. The slave girl followed Peter out and said to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." Again Peter denied knowing Jesus. After a little while the bystanders said directly to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you speak with a Galilean accent." Then Peter began to swear with an oath, "I do not know this person of whom you are speaking"; but the cock interrupted him as it crowed for the second time. Immediately Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." He went out and wept bitterly.

(The eighth candle is extinguished)