

Tenebrae Responsories for Maundy Thursday

NOCTURNUS I

1 In monte Oliveti oravit ad Patrem:
Pater, si fieri potest, transeat a me calix
iste: Spiritus quidem promptus est, caro
autem infirma: fiat voluntas tua.
Vigilate, et orate, ut non intretis in
tentationem. Spiritus...

2 Tristis est anima mea usque ad mortem;
sustinete hic et vigilate mecum; nunc
videbitis turbam quae circumdabit me.
Vos fugam capietis, et ego vadam
immolari pro vobis.
Ecce appropinquat hora, et Filius
hominis tradetur in manus peccatorum.
Vos fugam...

3 Ecce vidimus eum non habentem
speciem, neque decorem, aspectus ejus
in eo non est: hic peccata nostra
portavit, et pro nobis dolet; ipse autem
vulneratus est propter iniquitates
nostras; Cujus livore sanati sumus.
Vere languores nostros ipse tulit;
et dolores nostros ipse portavit.
Cujus livore...

NOCTURNUS II

4 Amicus meus osculi me tradidit signo;
quem osculatus fuero, ipse est, tenete
eum; hoc malum fecit signum, qui per
osculum adimplevit homicidium.
Infoelix praetermisit pretium sanguinis,
et in fina laqueo se suspendit.
Bonum erat ei, si natus non fuisset
homo ille. Infoelix praetermisit...

5 Judas mercator pessimus osculo petiit
Dominu: ille ut agnus innocens non
negavit Judae osculum: Denariorum
numero Christum Judaeis tradidit.
Melius illi erat, si natus non fuisset.
Denariorum...

6 Unus ex Discipulis meis tradet me
hodie, Vae illi per quem tradar ego!
Melius illi erat, si natus non fuisset.
Qui intingit mecum manum in
paropside, hic me traditurus est in
manus peccatoru. Melius illi...

NOCTURNUS I

*On the Mount of Olives, he prayed to the
Father: O my Father, if it be possible, let this
cup pass from me: verily, the spirit is willing
but the flesh is weak: thy will be done.
Watch and pray, that ye enter not into
temptation. Verily, the spirit...*

*My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto
death; tarry ye here, and watch with me;
now shall ye see the multitude around about
me. You shall all flee, and I shall go to the
sacrifice for your sakes.
Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of
Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
You shall all flee...*

*Lo, we have seen him disfigured, nor was
there in him his fair and proper shape: 'tis
he that bore our sins and suffered for our
sakes; 'tis he was wounded for our
iniquities; by his wounds are we mended.
Verily, he took our languishing upon himself,
himself he bore our pains.
By his wounds...*

NOCTURNUS II

*My friend kissing me betrayed me giving
them a sign; Whomsoever I shall kiss, that
same is he: hold him fast. That man doth
evil that by a kiss shall kill a man. The
wretch did pay the price of blood and at the
end upon a halter did he hang.
It had been good for that man if he had not
been born. The wretch did pay...*

*Judas dealt most ill when he did ask a kiss
of the Lord: he, innocent as a lamb, denied
not Judas a kiss: for coin he betrayed Christ
to the Jews.
It had been good for that man if he had not
been born. For coin...*

*Verily I say unto you that one of you shall betray me:
but woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is
betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had
not been born. He that dippeth his hand with me in
the dish, the same shall betray me. It had been
good for that man if...*

NOCTURNUS III

7 Eram quasi agnus innocens: ductus sum ad immolandum, et nesciebam: consilium fecerunt inimici mei adversum me dicentes: Venite, mittamus lignum in panem ejus, et eradamus eum de terra viventium. Omnes inimici mei adversum me cogitabant mala mihi: verbum iniquum mandaverunt adversum me, dicentes. Venite...

8 Una hora non potuistis vigilare mecum, qui exhortabamini mori pro me? Vel Judam non videtis, quomodo non dormit, sed festinat tradere me Judaeis? Quid dormitis? surgite, et orate, ut non intretis in tentationem. Vel Judam non videtis...

9 Seniores populi consilium fecerunt; Ut Jesum dolo tenerent, et occiderent: cum gladiis et fustibus exierunt tanquam ad latronem. Collegerunt Pontifices et Pharisei consilium. Ut Jesum dolo tenerent...

NOCTURNUS III

I was as the innocent lamb: I was led to the sacrifice and I knew it not: mine enemies have taken counsel against me, saying: Come, let us put wood in his bread, and we shall remove him from the land of the living. All mine enemies have practised evil against me: they have sent evil words against me, saying: Come...

What, could ye not watch with me one hour, who were resolved to die? And did ye not see Judas, that slept not, and hastened to betray me to the Jews? What, do ye sleep? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation. And did ye not see...

The elders of the people consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill him: with swords and lashes they went out, as if to catch a thief. The priests and Pharisees consulted that they might...

(translation by John Underwood)