

Tenebrae - Holy Saturday

MATINS 1st Nocturne

1. A
4. Da

leph.
leth.

5

1. How the gold is grown dim, how the pure gold is changed!
4. The tongue of the suckling child cleaves to the roof of its mouth for thrist;

6

The ho ly stones lie scattered at the head of ev - ery street.
the child - ren beg for food, but no one gives to_____ them.

7

2. Beth.
5. He.

11

2. The pre cious sons of Zion, worth their weight in fine gold,
5. Those who feasted on dainties pe - rish in the streets;

12

how they are reckoned as earthen pots, the work of a pot - ter's hands!
those who were reared in purple lie on ash_____ heaps.

13

3. Ghi - - - - - mel.
6. Vau.

17

3. Even the jackals give the breast and suc - kle their young,
6. For the iniquity of the daughter of my people has been greater than the sin of So - dom,

18

but the daughter of my people has become cruel, like the ostrich in the desert.
which was overturned in a moment, no hand be - ing laid on it.

19

Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, turn back to the Lord thy God.

The Responsory '*Jerusalem, surge*' is now sung or said.

The original plainchant melody for the Greek letters is given below and may be substituted for the four-part version.

21

A - leph.
Beth.
Ghi - mel.
Da - leth.
He.
Vau.

It was standard practise for the Greek letters to be musically embellished to contrast the declaimed nature of the Lamentations. There are many fine examples to be found by Palestrina, Victoria, Charpentier, Zelenka etc. The above setting is my own, composed for the most basic parish choir to attempt and to add a little musical interest to the sombre words of the Prophet Jeremiah.