

Spirit of the Season

Easter 2001

www.liturgy.demon.co.uk/sos.html

ALLELUIA! Is the sound of Eastertime, and across the centuries musicians have given their best efforts to providing a feast for the ear, voice and heart. Lent is over – the fast is over; now let us delight in the rich fare their talent provides!



GETTING IN TOUCH

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ALLELUIA!
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Eastertime is a season to bless our gatherings with an abundance of instrumental riches. Gather in a festive mood and leave on a wave of joyful praise.

It is the season for the acclamation and of ritual music: When you gather use the Sprinkling Rite and Gloria, both sung of course!

The acclamations during the Eucharistic Prayer – use the best setting. We cannot forget the ‘sound of the season’ - the word that captures the essence of Eastertime – ALLELUIA! While it ought to be sung every time, this is the season to use the most joyful setting as it is the principal chant.

You are free to photocopy and pass this on. What about collecting them for reference?

... **before:** hearing God's call in the midst of life

What is to be done?

What ritual is used?

What are the roles in the assembly? How important is it to sing?

THE MASS

'Do this

in

memory

of me'

Introductory Rite

Gathering God's people

- Becoming one in heart and voice
- Preparing to listen

The Word

Recalling God's great works for us

- Opening our hearts
- Remembering our story
- Feeling our heart burn within us
- Breaking and sharing the word
- Praying for all humanity

The Eucharist

From word to thanksgiving

- Fulfilling the Lord's command to 'Do this in memory of me'
- Recalling his death, his resurrection, his coming again
- Becoming one with his sacrifice
- Receiving God's gifts

Concluding Rite
Going in peace to love and serve the Lord

	1	2	3	4	5
Opening Procession	All sing while ministers process or gather				
Greeting	Priest & people dialogue	♫			
Penitential Rite	Priest [& Cantor] and people dialogue		♫		
[Glorial]	Whole assembly participates	♫			
Opening Prayer	Priest leads prayer; all assent with 'Amen'				♫
First Reading	Reader proclaims; all listen				
Psalm	Psalmist sings; all respond		♫		
[Second Reading]	Reader proclaims; all listen				
Gospel Acclamation	All sing [C. may lead] while ministers process			♫	
THE GOSPEL	Deacon or Priest proclaims and all listen				
Homily	Priest/Deacon 'breaks the word' and all listen				
[Profession of Faith]	All recite [or sing]				♫
General Intercessions	Reader announces intentions;				
<i>(Prayer of the Faithful, Bidding Prayer)</i>	{ all pray in silence and then respond Priest concludes and all assent with 'Amen'			♫	
Preparation of Altar & Gifts	People bring gifts while all sing or listen <i>[If no song, P. may say prayers; all respond]</i>			♫	
Prayer over the Gifts	Priest leads prayer; all assent with 'Amen'				♫
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:					
Proclamation:					
<i>dialogue & preface, thanksgiving, institution, intercessions, doxology</i>	The priest proclaims the prayer on behalf of the whole assembly, which shows its assent by singing the acclamations			♫	
Assent:					
<i>preface dialogue responses Sanctus, Mem. Acc, Amen</i>				♫	
Lord's Prayer	All pray together	♫			♫
Peace	Priest/deacon invites and all exchange peace				
Breaking of Bread	During the breaking the Agnus Dei' is sung				
COMMUNION	All process to communion; a song is sung		♫		
Silence after communion	No music or speaking!				
{Or: Thanksgiving hymn	All sing]		[♫]		
Prayer after Communion	Priest leads prayer; all assent with 'Amen'				♫
Blessing and Dismissal	Priest [& deacon] and people dialogue				
Exit Procession	All sing [or listen] while ministers depart		♫		♫

... **and after:** being Christ for others until the next gathering

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SHOUTS OF JOY!

The chart opposite was prepared by the Church Music Committee of the Bishops' Conference to show the place of music in the Mass. Though we could sing everything at Mass (well perhaps not the homily!) it is not essential. What-

ever we sing highlights the part of Mass it accompanies. So the highpoints: the gospel and the eucharistic prayer are accompanied by the most significant musical parts: the Alleluia; "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"; Memorial Acclamation; Great Amen. They have a similar feel and known as acclamations. The acclamations are what they sound like – shouts of joy. They arise from the whole assembly as forceful and meaningful assents to God's Word and Action. It is of their nature that they should be rhythmically sung, melodically appealing, and affirmative. The people should know the acclamations by heart in order to sing them spontaneously. The Acclamations provide the backbone to choosing music for Mass.

On the chart the Acclamations form column 1. The other columns then suggest an order of priority for singing other parts of the Mass.

Free copies of the whole leaflet are available from the Liturgy Office.

THE CLASSROOM IN EASTER...

While the Church documents talk of this "most joyful season" there is no room for a one-dimensional approach when it comes to Eastertime. Use joyful alive colours. With white (Rev 7:9) and yellow as your 'staple diet' look at the rainbow – the fulfilment of the ark story of Lent. Use material in more than just one dimension – let it flow – try stencilling or printing on see-through material like voile (often less than £2 mtr). There are numerous images to use. A decorated candle might be a good idea not far from water and fresh flowers? When it comes to greenery – victory laurel with its large waxy leaves is always fresh looking just now. Numerous blossoms will be breaking out – the wood of the cross comes to life!



Music & Resources for the Season...

We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song

The paragraph above on *Shouts of Joy* is quite challenging. It recommends that some parts of the Mass should be sung before all others, they should be sung by the whole assembly and they should be well known and singable. It is good that a school should have one setting of the Gospel Acclamation and Eucharistic Acclamations (Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Amen) that are known by all. They might also be shared with the local parish. With this foundation other settings can be added. You may wish to vary the setting according to the liturgical season. Spare and solemn for Lent; joyful and exuberant for Easter.

There are a lot of good settings around these days. Many recent hymn books include a section on Mass parts.

Gospel Acclamation: The song accompanies a procession and so the music should be strong enough to accompany a procession and capable of being taken to heart so that the procession can be seen. The *Celtic Alleluia* by Fintan O'Carroll may be a bit hackneyed but it is easily sung by and it is hard to sing without smiling. Once again the Gospel Acclamations that Christopher Walker wrote for Liturgy of the Word with Children are a good source of settings. *Listen to Jesus* from the recent collection of music for children by Bernadette Farrell — *Share the Light* — is another winner. The accompanying recording comes with a CDrom so that you can learn to sign the songs as well. The two Gospel Acclamations in her collection *Christ, be our light* are also worth looking out for. Contact Decani Music for details (01638 716 579).

From the Directory for Masses with Children

52. The Eucharistic prayer is of the greatest importance in the Eucharist celebrated with children because it is the high point



of the entire celebration. Much depends on the manner in which the priest proclaims this prayer and on the way the children take

part by listening and making the acclamations.

The disposition of mind required for this central part of the celebration and the calm and reverence with which everything is done must make the children as attentive as possible. Their attention should be on the real presence of Christ on the altar under the elements of bread and wine, on his offering, on thanksgiving through him and with him and in him, and on the Church's offering, which is made during the prayer and by which the faithful offer themselves and their lives with Christ to the eternal Father in the Holy Spirit.

53. When the Eucharistic prayer has ended, the Lord's Prayer, the breaking of bread, and the invitation to communion should always follow, that is, the elements that have the principal significance in the structure of this part of the Mass.

54. Everything should be done so that the children who are properly disposed and who have already been admitted to the Eucharist may go to the holy table calmly and with recollection and thus take part fully in the Eucharistic mystery. If possible there should be singing...



The complete text of the Directory for Masses with Children is now available on the Liturgy Office web site. (www.liturgy.demon.co.uk/sos.html)

Parts of the Mass explained: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

99. At the Last Supper, Christ instituted the sacrifice and paschal meal that make the sacrifice of the cross present in the Church. From the days of the apostles the Church has celebrated that sacrifice by carrying out what the Lord did and handed over to his disciples to do in his memory. Like him, it has taken bread and wine, given thanks to God over them, broken bread, and shared the bread and cup of blessing as

the body and blood of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 10:16). The Church's Eucharist, in all its rich variety of forms and traditions, has always retained this basic shape: the **taking** of the elements of bread and wine in the preparation of the gifts, the act of **thanksgiving** in the Eucharistic prayer, the **breaking** of the bread, the giving and **sharing** of the body and blood of Christ in communion.

From the General Instruction on the Roman Missal.

Word Art:



For the classroom wall

TAKING

THANKSGIVING

BREAKING

SHARING



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