

SEQ CHAPTER \h \r 1 **Lent – Triduum – Easter Season**

The Triduum is the high point of the liturgical year, and the way the music is prepared should reflect that. Some large parishes that have several choirs for the Sunday liturgies bring these choirs together into one for the Triduum to give a sense of unity to the three celebrations and an experience of the whole for the members.

It is best to choose one setting of the gospel acclamation, Eucharistic acclamations, and the Lamb of God to use throughout the season, i.e., one for Lent and another for the Easter season (the best one the parish knows), and use them only during that season. People will eventually become more aware of the season because they associate certain music with that season.

Regarding instrumental music during Lent, the 1988 “Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts” by the Congregation for Divine Worship says that “*musical instruments may be played only to give necessary support to the singing*” (no. 17). This implies that instrumental music apart from supporting the singing is used at other times, such as during the time when people are gathering before the liturgy starts as a sign of hospitality to the body of Christ.

An optional entrance song for the First Sunday of Lent

The “Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and celebration of the Easter Feasts” suggests the following for the First Sunday of Lent: “The first Sunday of Lent marks the beginning of the annual Lenten observance. In the Mass of this Sunday there should be some distinctive elements which underline this important moment; e.g., the entrance procession with litanies of the saints” (no. 23).

There are several points to consider here. First of all, the directive calls for distinctive elements to mark the beginning of Lent, something such as a piece of music which is repeated every year. Secondly, if the litany of saints is used, note the connection with the Easter vigil, during which the litany of saints is sung during the baptism rite.

If the litany of saints is not chosen, an entrance song should be chosen from the list below.

Suggestions for Sundays in Lent

Entrance

352 Again We Keep this Solemn Fast	367 Lord, Who throughout these Forty Days
359 Come to the Water	366 O Raise Your Eyes on High
371 O Sun of Justice, Fill our Hearts	582 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Preparation of Gifts

353 Take Up your Cross	360 Eternal Lord of Love
369 O Merciful Redeemer	373 Tree of Life

374 With our God

503 For the Healing of the Nations

Communion

487 You Are Near

597D Bread of Life

611 Take and Eat

610 Taste and See

(see also 167, 170, 173)

599 No Greater Love

605 I Am the Living Bread

67 Ubi Caritas

Final Song (always optional)

368 O Cross of Christ

441 You Are the Way

435 Lift High the Cross

442 Praise to You, O Christ our Savior

Music for Specific Rites

Ash Wednesday:

During the imposition of ashes:

Psalm 51 (*CBW III* 41, 44, 57, 83);

621A Grant to Us, O Lord;

364 Have Mercy on Me.

(Other music may be the same as that for the First Sunday of Lent.)

Passion (Palm) Sunday

• At the beginning: 59, 60 or 61 Hosanna

• Procession with palms: 62 All Glory, Praise and Honor

• Proclamation of the Passion: at specified places sing either the gospel acclamation (refrain) or choose from the following: *CBW III*, 45, 47, 52, 64.

Triduum

Holy Thursday:

Mass of the Lord's Supper

• Washing of Feet

67 Ubi Caritas

595 Christians, Let Us Love One Another

• Presentation of gifts

376 Where True Love and Charity

599 No Greater Love

• Transfer of reserved Sacrament

68B Hail Our Savior's Glorious Body
68 Pange Lingua

Good Friday

- Silence at entrance
- General Intercessions: *CBW III* 71
- Veneration of the Cross: *CBW III* 72, 73, 74

69 Sing, My Tongue, the Song of Triumph

435 Lift High the Cross

381 Sing, My Tongue, the Ageless Story

368 O Cross of Christ

379 Behold the Wood

373 Tree of Life

382 When I Behold the Wondrous Cross

Easter Vigil

- Procession with Easter candle: *CBW III* 75A, B, or C
 - Easter proclamation: 283D
 - Rites of Initiation
- Litany of Saints : 86
- Blessing of water: 87 and 88, or 618 Who Calls You By Name
- Baptism (after each one): 4E or 4F
- Renewal of baptismal promises
- 394 The Light of Christ
- 615 How Great the Signs of God's Love
- 237 Music for the Sprinkling Rite

Easter Sunday

- Sequence: *CBW III* 690
- Renewal of baptismal promises: See above.
- Dismissal: 6L

Pentecost

- Sequence: 692