

LIVING LITURGY™

for Music Ministers

Year C • 2022

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for your music ministry*

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USING THIS RESOURCE

*Living Liturgy for Music Ministers*TM is a resource intended to assist music ministers in their preparation for the liturgy on Sundays and selected solemnities, as well as Ash Wednesday. Included here are reflections on the gospel, and some insight into how the word of God informs daily life. It is hoped that the commentaries and reflections in this resource will assist music ministers with their own personal encounter with the sacred text. Music ministers who have a better understanding of the readings may be more apt to sing with a greater sensitivity to the deeper meaning of God's word.

*Living Liturgy for Music Ministers*TM has reflections on the gospel readings, brief commentaries connecting the responsorial psalm to the readings, followed by reflections to assist psalmists with preparing for proclamation of the psalms. There are prayers provided for musicians to use with their own spiritual preparation for their ministry. Also included are the readings and responsorial psalms for every Sunday of the liturgical year, as well as for certain solemnities and Ash Wednesday. The second readings are found in an appendix.

This book is an essential resource for music ministers whose own spirituality is nourished by the liturgical cycle and the accompanying Scripture readings, especially the gospel and the psalm. The following outline suggests how this resource might be used by music ministers as they prepare for the liturgical assembly. Of course, adaptations are encouraged as there is no one "right" way to use this book.

On Monday, read only the gospel and reflect on it. Then, read "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" before reading the gospel again. What new insights come to mind? How does the reflection inform your understanding of the sacred text?

On Tuesday, read the first reading. What connections, if any, do you find between it and the gospel? This is a good time to read "Connecting the Responsorial Psalm to the Readings." What new insights come to mind for you? How do these readings inform the situation at your parish, or with your fellow music ministers?

On Wednesday, read the psalm in a prayerful manner. What connections do you draw between the psalm, the gospel, and the first reading? If it is helpful, read the second reading too and let the Scriptures percolate in your spiritual life, with insights bubbling up naturally. When we have been reading God's word, these insights happen not only in prayer but also throughout the week at home, at work, and in daily life.

On Thursday, spend some time with “Psalmist Preparation.” How will you allow some of the spiritual insights you’ve gained through prayer to inform your proclamation of the psalm?

On Friday, if you haven’t already been singing the psalm with your accompanist or fellow ministers, now is a good time to start, at least on your own, or *a cappella*. Use the “Prayer” together as a group or pray it on your own either before or after your practice.

On Saturday and Sunday, spend time in quiet prayer, allowing yourself to be an instrument in God’s hands so that the gathered assembly might find meaning and spiritual insight through your ministry. In your prayer allow words or phrases from the gospel, psalm, and first and second readings to come to mind.

Many music ministers find this to be a rich ministry, filled with spirituality and giving new meaning to their daily lives. The personal encounter with the living and sacred text, being the vehicle through which the assembly hears God’s word, and the fellowship one experiences throughout the week are sources of consolation and joy. When we minister with the gifts given to us by God, we become who we are meant to be. We actualize the charisms God has bestowed on us, not for our sakes alone, but for the building up of the Christian community. In this way, music ministers live their Christian baptism.

Gospel (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36; L3C)

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.



“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

First Reading (Jer 33:14-16)

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: “The LORD our justice.”

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14)

R. (1b) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and teaches the humble his way.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him,
and his covenant, for their instruction.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

See Appendix, p. 208, for Second Reading

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

The word of God calls us to be people of hope. Jesus proclaims to us in today's gospel the same good news he spoke to the bent-over woman (see Luke 13:10-17). Touched by Jesus, the woman who for eighteen years had only looked at feet and dust was able to "stand up straight" and to see the Sabbath stars shining on his face. Today, we too are urged to lift up our heads and have faith that we will see our redemption drawing near in the Son of Man.

Connecting the Responsorial Psalm to the Readings

This psalm is brimming with hope and delight. The second reading calls us to justice, and in the psalm, we learn who the just are. They are the humble, who encounter the Lord through kindness and constancy.

Psalmist Preparation

When proclaiming these words, you are tying together the gospel and the readings by providing a road map to justice. You are a version of John the Baptist, proclaiming the way to the Lord for your community by sharing the concrete instructions: "All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy / toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. / The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him, / and his covenant, for their instruction."

Prayer

God of heaven and earth,
your ways are beyond our thinking,
your holiness is your gift to us.

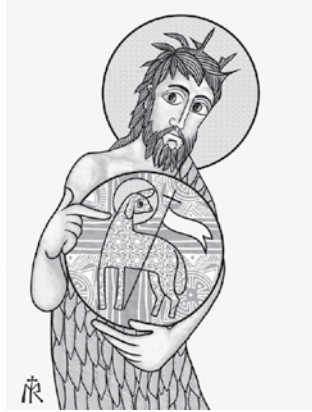
To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Receive it, and bring me to completeness in you,
who are God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Gospel (Luke 3:1-6; L6C)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:



*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make straight his paths.
 Every valley shall be filled
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
 The winding roads shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth,
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

First Reading (Bar 5:1-9)

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery;
 put on the splendor of glory from God forever:
 wrapped in the cloak of justice from God,
 bear on your head the mitre
 that displays the glory of the eternal name.
 For God will show all the earth your splendor:
 you will be named by God forever
 the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;
 look to the east and see your children
 gathered from the east and the west
 at the word of the Holy One,
 rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Led away on foot by their enemies they left you:
 but God will bring them back to you
 borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.
 For God has commanded
 that every lofty mountain be made low,
 and that the age-old depths and gorges
 be filled to level ground,
 that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.
 The forests and every fragrant kind of tree
 have overshadowed Israel at God's command;
 for God is leading Israel in joy
 by the light of his glory,
 with his mercy and justice for company.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6)

R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
 we were like men dreaming.
 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations,
 "The LORD has done great things for them."
 The LORD has done great things for us;
 we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like the torrents in the southern desert.
 Those who sow in tears
 shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping,
 carrying the seed to be sown,
 they shall come back rejoicing,
 carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

See Appendix, p. 208, for Second Reading

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

We are used to heavy earth-moving equipment and technology that builds roads to speed travelers on their way—cutting out sharp bends, smoothing treacherous bumps, straightening dangerous curves to give us a clearer and safer view of what is ahead or oncoming. Advent is the season of Christian “road work,” with John the Baptist as our overseer. With John’s voice, the church asks us both personally and communally to level and straighten out whatever is an obstacle or danger on our journey to God.

Connecting the Responsorial Psalm to the Readings

This psalm is very blunt. The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Paul uses this certainty in his letter to the Philippians when he tells us, “I am confident of this, / that the one who began a good work in you / will continue to complete it / until the day of Christ Jesus.” Paul is speaking of the Holy Spirit, trusting and celebrating that the good things the Spirit has begun will continue to manifest positively.

Psalmist Preparation

If you have ever played or coached a sport, or received or given mentorship, this psalm invites you to channel that experience. You are the leader in this moment, giving encouragement to the congregation, reminding them of past victories. “Although they go forth weeping, / carrying the seed to be sown, / they shall come back rejoicing, / carrying their sheaves.” You have the opportunity to share God’s game plan with your parish, using this beautiful imagery. For you personally, recall a moment when you had to double down on hard work and trust to accomplish a goal. This is the type of moment the psalmist is asking us to remember.

Prayer

Powerful and mighty Redeemer,
You have *done great things for us*;
we are filled with joy in your presence.
Help us always to remember the gladness of your salvation.
Give to us peace and perseverance always.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.