EASTER VIGIL

‘Proper’ of the Mass

Set to Gregorian Tones
With Organ Accompaniment

by

Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.

2006
Acknowledgements


English tones and harmonizations by Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.

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One copy of this project is made available to interested parties for educational purposes only, on a not-for-profit, not for publication basis, for private distribution only. It is hoped that this project will result in a permanent resource once the expected English translation of the *Missale Romanum* (2003) is promulgated.
In order to satisfy a number of requests, I have prepared this little “Sampler” of settings of the ‘Proper’ of the Mass. Those asking for these settings tell me they value:

1. Devotion to the Word of God, in particular, to the Book of Psalms as the “Prayerbook” of the Church.

2. A desire to “Sing the Mass” rather than to “Sing at the Mass.” The Proper parts of the Mass given in the Roman Missal represent the authentic piety of the Liturgy, and best nourish the spiritual needs of the faithful.

3. Sacred texts that focus on devotion to God, divine realities, the transcendent, the mysteries of the Liturgical Year, sin and repentance, and the gifts of grace.

4. Music that draws its inspiration from the traditional chant and polyphony of the Church.

5. Organ accompaniments that adorn and heighten the word of God, without being flashy or calling an inordinate attention to themselves.

6. Options that are simple enough for beginning cantors and choirs, and require a minimum of rehearsal time.

7. In addition, options that are more challenging, and call to mind the sound and atmosphere, evoke the “ethos,” of the traditional chants of the Graduale Romanum, while using the officially approved English texts.

To this end, I am including here some “sketches” of possibilities. If you, the recipient, have time, please assist with this project. Provide feedback as to your needs, what works and doesn’t work, what is not included here that you would like to see, and any other points of interest and concern.

A new translation of the Missale Romanum is expected soon. With the advent of this translation, will it be time to make available an English Gradual in the styles of traditional Catholic church music included herein?

I am eager to hear from you. Email works best for me.

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Psalm 103: 1-2. 5-6. 10. 12. 13-14. 24. 35

1. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul! *
   O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!
2. You are clothed with majesty and glory, *
   robed in light as with a cloak. Refrain
3. You fixed the earth upon its foundation, *
   not to be moved for ever;
4. With the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it;
   above the mountains the waters stood. Refrain
5. You send forth springs into the watercourses *
   that wind among the mountains.
6. Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;
   from among the branches they send forth their song. Refrain
7. You water the mountains from your palace *
   the earth is replete with the fruit of your works.
8. You raise grass for the cattle, / and vegetation for man’s use, *
   producing bread from the earth. Refrain
9. How manifold are your works, O Lord! *
   In wisdom you have wrought them all—
10. the earth is full of your creatures. *
    Bless the Lord, O my soul! Refrain
READING I
Genesis 1:1-22

Psalm 103:1-2. 5-6. 10. 12-14. 24. 35

— B —

After “Picardy” Mode I

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5. You send forth springs into the watercourses *
   that wind among the mountains.
6. Beside them the birds of heaven dwell; *
   from among the branches they send forth their song. Refrain
7. You water the mountains from your palace; *
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8. You raise grass for the cattle, / *
   and vegetation for man’s use, *
   producing bread from the earth. Refrain
9. How manifold are your works, O Lord! *
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READING III
Exodus 14: 15–15:1

Exodus 15: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 17-18

8. I will sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

1. I will sing to the Lord, / for he is gloriously triumphant; *  
   horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

2. My strength and my courage is the Lord, *  
   and he has been my savior.

3. He is my God, I praise him; *  
   the God of my father, / I extol him. Refrain

3. The Lord is a warrior, *  
   Lord is his name!

4. Pharaoh’s chariots and army he hurled into the sea; *  
   the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea. Refrain

5. The flood waters covered them, *  
   they sank into the depths like a stone.

6. Your right hand, O Lord, magnificent in power, *  
   your right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemy. Refrain

7. You brought in the people you redeemed *  
   and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance—

8. the place where you made your seat, O Lord, /  
   the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands established. *  
   The Lord shall reign forever and ever. Refrain
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