SUNDAYS OF LENT
PALM SUNDAY
Simple Psalm Tone Settings

‘Proper’ of the Mass

Set to Gregorian Tones
With Organ Accompaniment

by

Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.

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Acknowledgements

The English translation of the Psalm responses, the Gospel Acclamation verses, from The Lectionary for Mass © 1968, 1981, 1997, ICEL; the English translation of the Entrance and Communion Antiphons from The Roman Missal © 1973 ICEL, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.


Harmonizations of Latin Psalm tones adapted by the editor from the settings of Carlo Rossini in his classic work ‘Proper of the Mass for the Entire Liturgical Year, 1933 ff., and from the various harmonizations of Achille Bragers.

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One copy of this project is made available to interested parties for educational purposes only, on a not-for-profit, not for publication basis, for private distribution only.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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‘PROPER’ OF THE MASS
SUNDAYS OF LENT

PART I: Most simple settings

Texts of the ‘Propers’ Pointed for Chanting by Congregation, Cantor or Choir

Introit, Offertory and Communion

-- Two simple Psalm Tone formulas (Mode I D and Mode VII a)
-- Choose one or the other, as seems best. It doesn’t matter which tone is used.
-- May be sung

  -- *a capella* in unison
  -- in unison with organ accompaniment
  -- *a capella* SATB

-- The same system of pointing works for both tones

  -- 1 final accent, indicated by **bold** type
  -- 1 or 2 preparatory syllables, indicated by *italics*

Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation

-- One simple Psalm Tone formula (Mode V c)
-- **Responsorial Psalms:** Refrains only given here

  -- Cantor uses the same tone for the Psalm verses
  -- Text as given in the Lectionary, not included here

-- **Gospel Acclamations:** Acclamation and Proper Verses

-- Verses may be sung

  -- *a capella* in unison
  -- in unison with organ accompaniment
  -- *a capella* SATB

-- System of pointing for melody line

  -- 1 final accent, indicated by **bold** type
  -- 1 or 2 preparatory syllables, indicated by *italics*

-- System of pointing for organ accompaniment/SATB (effects ATB part only)

  -- 2 final accents, indicated by **bold** type
  -- harmonic movement takes place on **first** accent
  -- in some cases, this accent may coincide
      with second preparatory note,
      in which case the **syllable** is both bold and italic
  -- Alto provides suspension at the final cadence as indicated in option B
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

INTROIT Ps 90:15-16
1. When he calls to me, I will answer; †
   I will rescue him and give him honor. *
   Long life and contentment will be his.

OFFERTORY Ps 90:15-16
2. With his pinions the Lord will cover you, †
   and under his wings you will take refuge; *
   his faithfulness is a buckler and shield.

COMMUNION Mt 4:4
3. One does not live on bread alone, *
   but on every word †
   that comes from the mouth of God.

COMMUNION Ps 90:4
4. The Lord will overshadow you, *
   and you will find refuge †
   under his wings.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

INTROIT Ps 24:6.3.22
5. Remember your mercies, Lord, *
   your tenderness from ages past.
   Do not let our enemies triumph over us; *
   O God, deliver Israel from all her distress.

INTROIT Ps 26:8.9
6. My heart has prompted me to seek your face; *
   I seek it, Lord; do not hide from me.

OFFERTORY Ps 118:17-18
7. I will delight in your commands, *
   which I love exceedingly;
   and I will lift up my hands to your commands, *
   which I love.

COMMUNION Mt 17:5
8. This is my Son, my beloved, †
   in whom is all my delight: *
   listen to him.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

INTROIT Ps 24:15-16
9. My eyes are ever fixed on the Lord, *
   for he releases my feet from the snare.
   O look at me and be merciful, *
   for I am wretched and alone.

INTROIT Ez 36:23-26
10. I will prove my holiness through you. *
    I will gather you from the ends of the earth;
    I will pour clean water on you †
    and wash away all your sins. *
    I will give you a new spirit within you, †
    says the Lord.

OFFERTORY Ps 18:9-12
11. The precepts of the Lord are right, *
    rejoicing the heart,
    and his ordinances are sweeter †
    than syrup or honey from the comb; *
    therefore your servant is careful of them.

COMMUNION Jn 4:13-14
12. Whoever drinks the water that I shall give him, †
    says the Lord, *
    will have a spring inside him, †
    welling up for eternal life.

COMMUNION Ps 83:4-5
13. The sparrow even finds a home, †
    the swallow finds a nest *
    wherein to place her young,
    near to your altars, Lord of hosts, *
    my King, my God!
    How happy they who dwell in your house! *
    For ever they are praising you.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

INTROIT Cf. Is 60:10-11

14. Rejoice, Jerusalem! †
   Be glad for her, you who love her; *
   rejoice with her, / you who mourned for her,
   And you will find contentment *
   at her consoling breasts.

OFFERTORY Ps 134:3. 6

15. Praise the Lord, for he is good; *
   sing praise to his name, / for he is loving;
   all that he wills he does *
   in heaven and on earth.

Year A: COMMUNION Cf. Jn 9:11

16. The Lord rubbed my eyes : †
   I went away and washed; *
   then I could see, / and I believed in God.

Year B: COMMUNION Ps 121:3-4

17. To Jerusalem, / that binds them together in unity, *
   the tribes of the Lord go up to give him praise.

Year C: COMMUNION Lk 15:32

18. My son, / you should rejoice, †
   because your brother was dead †
   and has come back to life; *
   he was lost and is found.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

INTROIT Ps 42:1-2

19. Give me justice, O God, *
   and defend my cause against the wicked;
   rescue me from deceitful and unjust men. *
   You, O God, are my refuge.

OFFERTORY Ps 118:7. 10. 17. 107

20. I praise you, O Lord, *
   with all my heart;
   be good to your servant, *
   that I may live and keep your words.
   O Lord, give me life *
   according to your word.

Year A: COMMUNION Jn 11:26

21. He who believes in me †
   will not die for ever, *
   says the Lord.

Year C: COMMUNION Jn 8:10-11

22. Has no one condemned you? †
   The woman answered: *
   No one, Lord.
   Neither do I condemn you: *
   go and do not sin again.

COMMUNION Jn 12:24-25

23. I tell you solemnly; †
   Unless a grain of wheat / falls on the ground and dies; *
   it remains a single grain;
   but if it dies, *
   it yields a rich harvest.
Palm Sunday

Introit Ps 42:1-2

24. Six days before the solemn passover *
the Lord came to Jerusalem,
and children waving palm branches *
rained out to welcome him.
They loudly praised the Lord: *
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are you who have come to us *
so rich in love and mercy.

Offertory Ps 68:21-22

25. Insult has broken my heart, / and I am weak; †
I looked for sympathy, / but there was none; *
for comforters, / and I found none.
Rather they put gall in my food *
and in my thirst / they gave me vinegar to drink.

Communion Mt 26:42

26. Father, / if this cup may not pass, †
but I must drink it, *
then your will be done.
REFRAINS FOR THE RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

27. A. Be merciful, O Lord, *
   for we have sinned
28. B. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth *
   to those who keep your covenant.
29. C. Be with me, Lord, *
   when I am in trouble.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

30. A. Lord, let your mercy be on us, *
   as we place our trust in you.
31. B. I will walk before the Lord, *
   in the land of the living.
32. C. The Lord is my light *
   and my salvation.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

33. A. If today you hear his voice, *
   harden not your hearts.
34. B. Lord, / you have the words *
   of everlasting life.
35. C. * The Lord is kind and merciful.
   (second phrase only)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

36. A. The Lord is my shepherd; *
   there is nothing I shall want.
37. B. Let my tongue be silenced, *
   if I ever forget you.
38. C. Taste and see *
   the goodness of the Lord.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

39. A. With the Lord there is mercy *
   and fullness of redemption.
40. B. Create a clean heart *
   in me, O God.
41. C. The Lord has done great things for us; *
   we are filled with joy.

PALM SUNDAY

42. My God, my God, *
   why have you abandoned me?
‘PROPER’ OF THE MASS
SUNDAYS OF LENT
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

\[\text{Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.}\]

\[\text{GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Refrain}\]

43. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, * King of endless glory.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Verse**

44. One does not live by bread alone, * but on every word that comes † from the mouth of God.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – Verse**

45. From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard: * This is my beloved Son, † listen to him.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Verse**

46. A. Lord, / you are truly the Savior of the world; * give me living water, † that I may never thirst again.

47. B. God so loved the world † that he gave his only Son, * so that every one who believes in him † might have eternal life.

48. C. Repent, / says the Lord; * the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Verse**

49. A. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; * whoever follows me † will have the light of life.

50. B. God so loved the world † that he gave his only Son, * so that every one who believes in him † might have eternal life.

51. C. I will get up and go to my Father † and shall say to him: * Father, / I have sinned † against heaven and against you.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Verse**

52. A. I am the resurrection and the life, / says the Lord; * whoever believes in me will never die.

53. B. Whoever serves me must follow me, / says the Lord; * and where I am, † there also will my servant be.

54. C. Even now, says the Lord, † return to me with your whole heart; * for I am gracious and merciful.

**PALM SUNDAY – Verse**

55. Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. * Because of this, / God greatly exalted him * and bestowed on him the name † which is above every name.