

Music for Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass

Structure

Exposition

Song

Exposition (Procession from the place of Reservation)

(Exposition after Mass)

Adoration

Readings, homily, prayers, songs *ad libitum* or Liturgy of the Hours.

(Sufficient time should also be allowed for silent prayer)

[Benediction

Eucharistic Song

Prayer

Blessing]

Reposition

Reposition (Procession to the place of Reservation)

Acclamation

Introduction

There are a distinct role for music in each of the 4 parts of the Rite: a processional song to accompany the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; music during the period of Adoration; the Eucharistic Song for Benediction and an acclamation as the Blessed Sacrament is replaced in the tabernacle. Though some music could easily be sung at any part of the Rite it is important to bring out the contrasting moments within the rite itself.

There is a strong tradition of hymnody for Exposition both of Latin texts and devotional hymns of the last two centuries. There have also been many fine Eucharistic texts written since the Rite was published in 1978: hymns and psalms settings as well as the wealth of chants such as those from Taizé.

The list of suggestions provided here is not meant to be exhaustive but to provide some resources and stimulate other ideas. Many of the suggestions can easily be found in the hymnbooks most commonly found in Catholic churches.

When preparing music for Exposition remember that it is a celebration of liturgy. Music is used to accompany liturgical action, enable participation and deepen people's prayer. It is an action of the Church and so overly personal and sentimental texts and settings should be avoided.

Though the Eucharist will form the core theme of much of the music chosen other themes are also appropriate. These may derive from the theme of Eucharist itself such as praise and thanksgiving, the gift of God's creation, God's love for us as well as the life of discipleship the Eucharist nourishes us for. Choices may also be made based on the scripture readings chosen for the period of adoration; the liturgical season or a direct aspect of the Eucharist such as those given below.

Exposition

A song may be sung while the minister comes to the altar.

Where the Blessed Sacrament has to be brought to the altar from the tabernacle by the minister this action is accompanied by a processional song. Songs used to accompany the Communion procession may be suitable.

When Exposition is celebrated directly after a celebration of Mass at which the host is consecrated the Mass ends with the Prayer after Communion and the Concluding Rites are omitted. In this case the song of thanksgiving after communion fulfils the function of this song.

There may be occasions when it is fitting for the service to begin in silence.

Adoration

The period of adoration will be the longest part of a service of Exposition. It will consist of readings, music and periods of silence. The readings will generally taken from scripture and as well as the suggestions in the Holy Hour sheets the 2nd volume of Rite is a collection of readings. The period of adoration may well follow the pattern of: scripture reading, sung psalm or song, prayer and period of silence. Psalms are given with the scripture readings — settings should be chosen for their reflective character. Other songs can be used. They should reflect the themes of scripture and be an aid to prayer and meditation. Other sung forms include a Short Litany .

The use of ostinato chants (such as Taizé) can effectively lead in to periods of silence; gentle instrumental music can also be helpful. Where there are the resources it may be appropriate for a choir or other group of musicians to sing a motet or piece of music by themselves.

The time of adoration may consist of a celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, in particular the principal hours of Morning and Evening Prayer.

Benediction

At the end of time of adoration the priest or deacon goes to the altar, genuflects, and then kneels. As the Blessed Sacrament is incensed a Eucharistic Song is sung. Many will have grown up singing *Tantum Ergo* at this point but other hymns are possible. Consider using more St Thomas Aquinas' hymn *Pange lingua* in a translation that brings out the rich theology — perhaps a setting that is also used on Holy Thursday.

The Blessing itself takes place in silence.

Reposition

As the Blessed Sacrament is replaced in the tabernacle the rite recommends that the people sing an acclamation. Suitable themes for the acclamation would include thanksgiving or God's love for us.

In some communities it may be appropriate to conclude with a procession to an image of Our Lady and the singing of a suitable hymn there.

Psalms

The following Psalms are given in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass: Volume II*.

Psalm 22 r. 1

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 33: 2–9 r. 9

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Psalm 39: 2, 4, 7–10 r. 8–9

Here I am, O Lord, I come to do your will.

Psalm 77: 3–4, 23–25, 54 r. 24

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Psalm 109: 1–4 r. 4

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

Psalm 115: 12–13, 15–18 r. 13 or 1 Cor 10: 16

*The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.
The blessing-cup we bless is a communion in the blood of Christ.*

Psalm 144: 10–11, 15–18 r. 16

You open wide your hand, Lord, grant the desires of all who live.

Psalm 147: 12–15, 19–20 r. 12 or John 6:58

*O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.*

Music

Music resources are also included in the rite itself. A separate document offering texts for composers from rite is available.

This list is not intended to be in anyway exhaustive rather to provide some ideas and stimulus for those preparing Exposition.

Bénissez le Seigneur (Taizé)

Be still for the presence of the Lord (Evans)

Confitemini Domino (Taizé)

Halleluya, we sing your praises (South Africa)

Happy are those (Russian)

He became poor (Iona)

He is Lord

Jesus, remember me (Taizé)

Jesus the Lord said (Urdu)

Jesu, the very thought of thee

Keep in mind (Deiss)

Laudate Dominum (Taizé)

Laudate omnes gentes (Taizé)

Love divine, all loves excelling

Love is his word

O Christe Domine Jesu

Santo (Argentina)

The love I have for you

Core Repertoire

(www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/AYWL)

Philippians 2

Ubi Caritas

Latin texts

Pange Lingua
Tantum Ergo
Verbum Supernum
O salutaris
Adoro te devote
Ubi caritas

Year of the Eucharist — Holy Hours

Themes

1. Harvest

(especially in October – November)
For the beauty of the earth
For the fruits of all creation
Harvest of Justice (Haas)
The seed is Christ's
We cannot own the sunlit sky (Duck, Haugen)

2. Refugees & Migrants — Openness to the Word of God

(especially in December – January)
Christ's is the world (Iona)
Come to me, O weary traveller (Dunstan)
I heard the voice of Jesus say
Lord, whose love is humble service
Not on bread alone (Dean)
In the Land (Lynch/Farrell)

3. The Communion of the Church

(especially in January – February) [World day of prayer for the sick]
Eye has not seen
Healer of our every ill
Jesus, heal us
Lay your hands
We cannot measure how you heal

4. The Growth of the Church

(especially in March –April) [Easter]
Many are the lightbeams
O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray
One bread, one body
We have been told

5. Sharing in the life of the Lord

(especially in May – June) [Body & Blood of Christ]
O changeless Christ
O how blest (Schiavone)
Praise to the holiest
Unless a grain

6. Alive in Christ

(especially in July – August) [Day for Life]

7. Thanksgiving

(especially in September – October)