Liturgy and Music Planning Overview

For February 14, 2018
Which is Ash Wednesday, Year B

Lectionary # 219

Readings: Ash Wednesday
I: Joel 2:12-18
II: 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2
G: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

For reflection

Ash Wednesday, of course, begins the holy season of Lent. The readings for today emphasize both God’s mercy and our need for mercy. Over and over we are urged to “return to God with all our heart.” Lent is a time to look at what might be keeping us from returning to God, or from uniting our lives to God’s love. The Church has taught that prayer, fasting and generous giving are three central ways to turn ourselves to God – and those three disciplines form the heart of today’s Gospel reading, along with encouragement not to do any of these things for public admiration.

How can we humbly approach the season of Lent? How can we recommit to our faith in this season of repentance? How can we feel and show the mercy of God in our lives?

Lord, draw us ever near to you, knowing that our redemption is in you alone.

Planning your Music

Music during Lenten liturgies, as with all things Lent, should be simple. Consider using fewer instruments, quieter choices, and even times of silence when you usually would sing or play. On Ash Wednesday, you may want to sing the first two verses of a song for the opening, for example, and the last two for the closing song. During Lent, at the Preparation of the Altar you might ask everyone to sit silently in prayer. If you would typically use an instrumental piece, instead use silence in that time.

Mass Setting: _______________________

Opening Song Suggestions:
*any of these could be sung as both opening and closing songs by dividing the verses
The Glory of these Forty Days #476
Led by the Spirit #467
Hosea #466
From Ashes to the Living Font #460
Again We Keep this Solemn Fast #457

Gloria? No, not during Lent.
Psalm: The psalm for this week is 51. See arrangements at #239-242 in the Newman Hymnal. You will find that #240 and 241 are easily learned. However, another familiar option can be found in the Gather Hymnal, #53.

During Lent you may always use Psalm 51. See arrangements for Psalm 51 at #239-242 in the Newman Hymnal. You will find that #240 and 241 are easily learned. However, another familiar option can be found in the Gather Hymnal, #53.

Gospel Acclamation (from your chosen Mass setting – remember that the Alleluia is never sung during Lent!)

Verse before the Gospel
If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

Distribution of Ashes Song Suggestions:
Deep Within #462
Amazing Grace #660
Hosea #466
Return to God #472 (verses found in the guitar/choir edition or the piano edition)

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts Song Suggestions:
Be Still and Know that I am God #661 (verses found in the guitar/choir edition or the piano edition)
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need #669
Deep Within #462

Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Amen (from your chosen Mass setting)

Lord’s Prayer (spoken or sung)

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) (from your chosen Mass setting)

Communion Song Suggestions:
Draw Near #136
Gift of Finest Wheat #134
Let us Break Bread Together #149
One Bread, One Body #152

Closing Song Suggestions:
See recommendations under “Opening Song Suggestions”