Liturgies and Music Planning Overview

For February 18, 2018
Which is the 1st Sunday of Lent, Year B

Lectionary # 23

Readings: 1st Sunday of Lent, Year B
I: Genesis 9:8-15
II: 1 Peter 3:18-22
G: Mark 1:12-15

For reflection

You know that feeling you get when you’re waiting for something big? Anticipation; the sense that change is imminent and significant; fear or excitement depending on the occasion. Today’s readings convey that sense that “something new is on the horizon,” and we’re about to discover what it is. In the first reading, God tells Noah that he’s giving creation a “do-over,” and that his new covenant will last forever and will extend to every living creature. That’s a huge promise! And yet, in the Gospel, we see that promise come true in its fullest form: the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus even declares that “this is the time of fulfillment” – the time when all the promises will come true. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Often, when we’re waiting with excitement or fear, we want to do something – to prepare in some way for the new event just over the horizon. Jesus tells us what we are to do as well: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”

What are your feelings as Lent begins? Are you excited? Fearful? Already ready to get it over with? Think about these being days of fulfillment. What does that mean to you?

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:
The Glory of These Forty Days #476
Led by the Spirit #467
Again We Keep this Solemn Fast #457
Amazing Grace #660

Gloria? No, not on the Sundays of Lent.
**Psalm:** The psalm for this week is 25. See arrangements at #198-203 in the Newman Hymnal. The refrain for today is at #199, refrain II.

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

**Preparation of the Altar and Gifts Song Suggestions:**
Servant Song  #690
O God, You Search Me  #707
The Lone, Wild Bird  #714
Forty Days and Forty Nights  #461

**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:**
Now We Remain  #702
Pan de Vida  #154
Let us Break Bread Together  #149
I Received the Living God  #143

**Closing Song Suggestions:**
Lord of All Hopefulness  #671
There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy  #676
Shepherd of Souls  #673
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  #674

*For the First Sunday of Lent, you may want to look in the Liturgical and Topical Index of the Newman Hymnal under “Covenant,” “Creation,” Lent,” or “Healing.”*