Liturgy and Music Planning Overview

For March 11, 2018
Which is the 4th Sunday of Lent, Year B

Lectionary # 32

Readings: 4th Sunday of Lent, Year B
  I: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
  II: Ephesians 2:4-10
  G: John 3:14-21

Remember that this Fourth Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday. The liturgical color is rose, and the tone of the liturgy reflects a joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery.

For reflection

The readings reflect the theme of God’s pardon and mercy, even though we haven’t done (and can’t possibly do) enough to deserve it. Mercy comes in the unexpected figure of the Persian King Cyrus, through the immeasurable riches of God’s grace, and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, offered to us because “God so loved the world.”

How well do we accept and give thanks for God’s mercy and pardon in our lives? How might we respond in love during these last weeks of Lent?

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

Planning your Music

Mass Setting: _______________________

Opening Song suggestions:
  We Walk by Faith  #643
  Lord of All Hopefulness  #671
  God of Day and God of Darkness  #401

Gloria?  No, not on the Sundays of Lent.

Psalm: The psalm for this week is 137. See the arrangement at #348 in the Newman Hymnal.

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:
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts – Song Suggestions:
Day is Done  #399
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  #644
Where Charity and Love Prevail  #650
You Are Mine  #667

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:
Ubi Caritas  #648
Taste and See  #157
Take and Eat This Bread  #158
Eat This Bread  #135

Closing Song Suggestions:
O God Beyond All Praising  #645
Cross of our Hope  #719
Day is Done  #399

For more ideas, consider the sections “Love,” “Hope,” “Mercy,” or “Sacrifice” in the Liturgical and Topical Index of the Newman Hymnal.