

A Little About the Entrance Antiphon

Hello everyone!

You may have noticed that I have begun **chanting the Entrance Antiphon at the beginning of Mass**. The simple reason is: **the Church asks me to!** The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)*, the big red book I use when celebrating Mass, explains its importance.

The Entrance Antiphon helps introduce the **liturgical season, feast, or scriptural focus of the Mass** and helps us enter more prayerfully and deeply into the celebration of the Mass.

As you become familiar with the melody, **please feel free to join in!** The Entrance Antiphon can be found in the hymnal right before the readings for Mass.

Thanks for your patience as we incorporate this beautiful part of the liturgy. God bless!

— Fr. Mulligan

General instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM):

The Entrance Antiphon

47. When the people are gathered, and as the Priest enters with the Deacon and ministers, the Entrance Chant begins. Its purpose is to open the celebration, foster the unity of those who have been gathered, introduce their thoughts to the mystery of the liturgical time or festivity, and accompany the procession of the Priest and ministers.

48. This chant is sung alternately by the choir and the people or similarly by a cantor and the people, or entirely by the people, or by the choir alone. In the Dioceses of the United States of America there are four options for the Entrance Chant: (1) the antiphon from the Missal or the antiphon with its Psalm from the *Graduale Romanum* as set to music there or in another setting; (2) the antiphon and Psalm of the *Graduale Simplex* for the liturgical time; (3) a chant from another collection of Psalms and antiphons, approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop, including Psalms arranged in responsorial or metrical forms; (4) another liturgical chant that is suited to the sacred action, the day, or the time of year, similarly approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop.

If there is no singing at the Entrance, the antiphon given in the Missal is recited either by the faithful, or by some of them, or by a reader; otherwise, it is recited by the Priest himself, who may even adapt it as an introductory explanation (cf. no. 31).

[Footnote: [*The Roman Missal: Renewed by Decree of the Most Holy Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, Promulgated by Authority of Pope Paul VI and Revised at the Direction of Pope John Paul II*](#), Third Typical Edition (Washington D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2011), 30.]