

Music Sunday Readings and Liturgical Resources



READINGS

The following readings are suggested for a service on Music Sunday. Remember that, for a service of Holy Communion, a Gospel reading must be included.

Old Testament Readings

Exodus 15.1-21
1 Chronicles 15.16-28
2 Chronicles 5.11-end
Isaiah 6.1-8

Psalms

33.1-12, 40, 47, 66, 95, 96, 98, 100, 149, 150

New Testament Readings

Colossians 3.2-17
Ephesians 5.15-20
Revelation 4
Revelation 5.6-end

Gospel Readings

Matthew 28.16-20
Luke 1.46-55
Luke 1.57-68
Luke 2.8-14
Luke 7.31-35

In the Church of England, local churches are free – if they wish – to depart from using an authorized lectionary for certain times of the year:

- *For services of Holy Communion:*
 - *From 3rd February until Ash Wednesday*
 - *From after Trinity Sunday until Advent Sunday (except All Saints' day)*

- *For services of the Word:*
 - *From after the Baptism of Christ until Palm Sunday*
 - *From after Trinity Sunday until the Third Sunday of Advent*

This means that, if Music Sunday is celebrated within this 'open' season, readings may be chosen to replace those appointed by the lectionary.

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

The following resources are designed to be used, as appropriate, in a service of Holy Communion or a Service of the Word.

Words of Introduction

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we celebrate today with joy God's gift of music, and give special thanks for the Royal School of Church Music – for the way it has enriched the worship of the Christian Church in many musical styles and in many places around the world. In this service we make our prayer in word, silence and song, as we seek God's blessing upon the work of the RSCM and all who minister through music.

Invitation to Confession

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God for idols of our own imagining.
As we gather to offer our praises to the holy and undivided Trinity,
and to worship him in spirit and in truth,
let us call to mind our sins.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons

Kyrie Confession

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to sing the Lord's song in a strange land.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

We have used your gifts to serve our own ends.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music. *cf Psalm 98.5*

All Alleluia.

Intercession

In the quietness,
aware that we are only part of a great multitude,
on earth and in heaven,
who share in the Church's offering of worship,
let us join ourselves with them
and bring to God in prayer our own hopes and needs,
together with those of all his children.
Through silence, spoken word and music,
let us be open to the God who both listens and speaks to us.

Silence is kept

For your holy catholic Church,
seeking the renewal of her unity,
drawing men and women to Christ,
and proclaiming your love in all the world.....
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For the leaders of the churches,
[for *N* our Bishop],
for all who share Christ's ministry in this place,
and especially for those who order the worship of your people,
that many may draw close to you in prayer and praise.....
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For all whom you inspire to compose music,
for all to whom you give skill and devotion to perform it,
and for all your children who are enriched and renewed by it.....
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For the nations of the world,
seeking the path to peace and justice:
for this country,
for Elizabeth our Queen,
and for all who strive to build here a society that is Christian and free.....
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For those who suffer in mind and body,
and for those who dedicate their lives to caring for their neighbours.....
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

For all who have gone before us in the faith of Christ,
for those who in past generations have enriched your Church with fine music,
and for all who have served as musicians in this church / parish.....
Let us pray to the Lord:

[a response may be said or sung]

Adapted from *Let all the world* (© RSCM, 1987)

All Lord of the Church,
hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.

Common Worship

Introduction to the Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
cf Colossians 3.15,16

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

To you we come, Father of lights,
with angels and saints,
where heaven and earth unite.
May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread.

All Amen.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons

Extended Eucharistic Preface (for use with *Common Worship Prayers A, B or E*)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your gift of music,
through which earth and heaven combine.
At the creation of the world,
the morning stars sang together,
and the heavenly beings shouted for joy.
At the deliverance of your people from Egypt,
Moses and Miriam sang of your salvation.
At the birth of your Son, Jesus,
the angels sang 'Glory in the highest'.
And so, with the saints and angels around your throne
who offer you ceaseless songs of praise,
we join to glorify your name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Concluding Prayers

Creator God,
you have made us in your image to reflect your goodness.
You have called us to use our gifts to build your kingdom.
Give us wisdom and help us to use our skills to your glory
and for the building up of the people we serve.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

All Amen.

**All God of majesty,
Whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
be with your servants who make music for your people,
that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty;
and bring us to the fulfilment of that hope of perfection
which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

(Prayer from Calvin Institute of Christian Worship)

Ending

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end.

after John Donne (1571-1631)

Blessing

May the songs of the angels sustain you,
may the praises of the saints inspire you,
may the silent music of the Unseen Trinity be in your heart,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

From The Light of Life (© RSCM, 2002)

Short Passages of Scripture

O magnify the Lord with me:
let us exalt his name for ever.

Psalm 34.3

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Psalm 96.9

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦
break into singing and make music.

Psalm 98.5

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; ♦
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

Psalm 104.35

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; ♦
make music to his name, for it is lovely.

Psalm 135.3