

## **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Although the sacramentary is a book of presidential prayers said by the priest, for the sake of completeness this edition does contain the brief sung antiphons of the entrance and communion processions. These are printed in smaller type and to one side in order to indicate that they are not ordinarily said by the priest and indeed are not parts of a sacramentary.

The General Instruction takes for granted that there will be singing at the entrance of the priest ... When the antiphons are set to music, they may be used for this purpose — i.e., as refrains to psalms. Ordinarily, however, it is expected that full use will be made of the decision to employ appropriate substitutes sung by the congregation with a cantor or choir ...

Only in the absence of song is the entrance antiphon used as a spoken or recited text. Since these antiphons are too abrupt for communal recitation, it is preferable that the priest (or the deacon, other minister, or commentator) adapt the antiphon and incorporate it in the thematic presentation of the Mass of the day ...

As already indicated, the antiphon will be omitted on almost all Sundays and other occasions when it is expected that there will be an entrance song or hymn.

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### Entrance Antiphon

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The General Instruction takes for granted that there will be singing at the entrance of the priest and other ministers (and at the communion rite; cf. nos. 26, 56, 83, 119), certainly in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. When the antiphons are set to music, they may be used for this purpose—i.e., as refrains to psalms. Ordinarily, however, it is expected that full use will be made of the decision to employ appropriate substitutes sung by the congregation with a cantor or choir. For the United States, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has given the criteria for texts to be sung as entrance songs. (See “Notes to the General Instruction,” no. 26, included in editions of the *Order of Mass*.)

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The entrance antiphons of the new Roman Missal are usually related to the particular season or feast; on ordinary Sundays they do not have a clear relationship to the Mass formulary. As already indicated, the antiphon will be omitted on almost all Sundays and other occasions when it is expected that there will be an entrance song or hymn.