



Keep Your Options Open

Last week we covered the Entrance Antiphon and how it serves as a profound introductory statement at the Mass. As we continue through Lent, I encourage you to be mindful of our Entrance Antiphon - as you listen to it, try to reflect on what is being said and how it relates to the rest of the Mass. This week the Church gives us two options for the

Entrance Antiphon. Why would she do that you ask? Have you ever tried to come up with a title for a book or paper, or perhaps a name for a pet, and had a couple good options from which to choose? You agonize over which to pick, which is most appropriate. Well, your final choice may be dependent upon circumstances. If you wrote a short piece about your parent or grandparent and the life lessons they taught you, a title such as “Wisdom of the Ages” or “Standing on the Shoulders of Those That Came Before” would be a much better choice than “Geriatric Musings.” If you were a stand up comedian though, the opposite may be true. The content/message is the same, but the manner in which that content is presented is different.

Today, our two Entrance Antiphon options highlight different aspects of the same Mass. It is up to the Priest to determine which angle (or focus) to take (See General Instruction of the Roman Missal 356-367). **Option 1**: “Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.” **Option 2**: “Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.”

I encourage you to take a few minutes (probably about five total) to review the readings and prayers of today's Mass - do a Google search for USCCB daily readings - and explore how both of those options highlight different aspects of the Mass texts. Perhaps you will find that the Lord is speaking to you more directly when you focus on one over the other.

Next week we will move on to the Introductory and Penitential Rites.

St. Cecilia, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity...Pray for us!

--Mark Wozniczka, Music Director (mwozniczka@archchicago.org)

