

# The Role of Music in the Liturgy

Music is integral to the structure of all of our liturgical rites and therefore, integral to our worship of God.

## Public Worship

Liturgy is the public act of worship of the believing community. In the liturgy we encounter God in word, in sacrament, and in the presider and assembly at prayer. In the liturgy – the great act of giving praise and glory to God – music is a most concrete and expressive way of announcing our belief and uniting our voices with one another.

## A Dimension of Communication

The singing of liturgical texts adds nobility to the words of our prayer.

## A Corporate Act

Singing in the liturgy expresses and nurtures our love for one another. The unity of voices expresses the unity that exists among the members of Christ's body, the Church.

## To Unite the Community

Hymn texts used in the liturgy give us a common language with which to express our common faith.

## To Help Us Hear God's Word

Hymn texts inspired by the scriptures nourish the faith of the liturgical assembly and lead its members to an ever more committed life as disciples of the Lord.

## To Help Us Celebrate the Season

Some hymns have melodies that are used only during specific seasons, so the melody itself alerts us to certain narratives.

## A Means of Dialogue

Music also provides the assembly with a melody for its dialogue, either with God or with other ministers in the assembly. For example, during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the preface dialogue engages the presiding priest and assembly in powerful dialogue which leads all to participate in their respective ways in the one great Eucharistic Prayer.

## Full, Conscious and Active Participation

Music in the liturgy is intended to foster the full, conscious and active participation of all the faithful in the Church's public prayer. By joining our hearts and minds together, knowing the mystery we celebrate and to whom we give praise and thanks, we are led to the kind of participation which is so earnestly desired by the pastors of the Church.

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