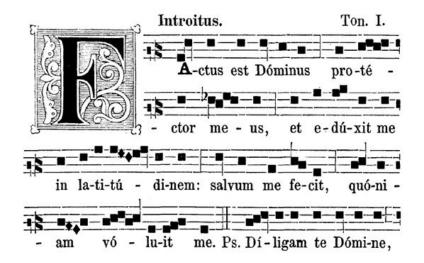
## St. Stephen Orthodox Church Springfield, MA

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

# Handbook for Church Musicians (Western Rite)



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## Introduction to the Liturgy

## What is the Liturgy?

A liturgy is a form of public worship consisting of specific rituals. The Christian Liturgy is the subject of an entire academic discourse known as *liturgics*. Suffice it to say that—for the chanters and musicians of St. Stephen Orthodox Church—the Liturgy consists of formulae for prayers, readings, sacraments, musical numbers, and rites specific to the Orthodox Christian faith tradition during church services. Our liturgical orientation at St. Stephen is part of what is collectively called the Western Rite, meaning that our Orthodox Catholic liturgies are derived from those of the Western edges of the pre-schism Christian Church. Our liturgies are Orthodox. Indeed, they among the oldest forms of Orthodox Catholic liturgies even though they may seem unfamiliar to Orthodox Christians coming from an Eastern Rite background. All may attend the services at St. Stephen, and all Orthodox Christians may be administered the Sacraments at St. Stephen.

At St. Stephen Orthodox Church, the two forms of the Liturgy celebrated are the Liturgy of the Office and the Mass (from the Latin word *missa*). The Office consists of prayers, psalms, canticles, readings, and hymns designated for worship during certain times of the day. At St. Stephen we celebrate Matins (the morning Office) every Sunday and Vespers (the evening Office) on Saturdays and certain feast days. The Mass, on the other hand, is the worship service that culminates in the celebration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It consists of prayers, readings, songs of praise, the Rite of the Eucharist itself, celebratory hymns, and—most importantly for the musicians of the *schola cantorum* or church choir—a collection of designated chanted texts known as the Ordinary and the Proper. The texts of the Ordinary are the same for every Mass, but the texts of the Proper often differ from day to day and week to week during the year-long Church Calendar to reflect different readings and lessons from Christian scripture.

It is the duty of the chanters and musicians at St. Stephen Orthodox Church to serve the musical demands of the Office and the Mass by chanting the appropriate texts and melodies for the Liturgy and providing paraliturgical and incidental music in the form of hymns and other musical works.

#### The Mass

The Mass is arguably the "main" responsibility of musicians of the *schola cantorum*. It is both the longest and most in-depth of the two kinds of Liturgy at St. Stephen Orthodox Church. It is also often the most attended by parishioners because the Sacrament of the Eucharist is administered to the Orthodox faithful during the Mass. St. Stephen Orthodox Church uses a modified form of the

Roman Rite of the Mass created after the Roman Catholic Council of Trent (which is thus called the "Tridentine" Mass) known as the Divine Liturgy of St. Gregory the Great. Unlike the Roman Mass, however, the Liturgy is typically celebrated in English instead of Latin, but it may be quite familiar to Roman Catholics old enough to remember the pre-Second Vatican Council Latin Mass (which is called *the Extraordinary Form of the Mass* when it is celebrated today in the Roman Catholic Church).

The fixed chanted texts of the Mass for which the *schola cantorum* is responsible are collectively known as the Mass Ordinary while the chants and texts that change from week to week are called the Mass Proper. The following chart outlines the order of the Mass chants and their designations. Each is named after their Latin incipit (or Greek, in the case of the Kyrie):

Mass Propers (Varying texts)	Mass Ordinary (Named for their static texts)
Introit (with Lesser Doxology)	
	Kyrie
	Gloria
Gradual	
Alleluia (N.B.: a Tract is sung in its place during penitential seasons such as Advent and Lent)	
Sequence (only applicable on specific feast days)	
	Credo
Offertory	
	Sanctus
	Pater Noster ( <i>N.B.: this</i> arguably is not part of the Mass Ordinary, but nevertheless it is sung every Mass)
	Agnus Dei
Communion	
	Ite, missa est

The Ordinary chants can be found in the Missal and the Proper chants are notated in the Graduale.

In addition to these, on Sundays just before Mass the *Asperges Me* (adapted from the text from Psalm 50/51 *Miserere Mei, Deus*) is chanted before the *Introit*. Some days may also call for a chanted *Sequence*, the most well-known of which is perhaps the *Dies Irae* sequence used for the *Requiem* Mass and the Mass of All Souls (November 2). There are also brief responses to the celebrant which the choir must sing such as "Amen" throughout the course of the service.

The Mass Propers are by far the more difficult chants, but there are simplified versions that are approved for use in the event that the cantor and/or the *schola cantorum* is unable to perform them or does not have sufficient time to practice the Proper chants. Our source for both the Ordinary and the chant Propers is the *Liber Usualis*, a compendium of liturgical plainchants for every Mass of the liturgical year compiled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Roman Catholic Benedictine monks of Solesmes Abbey in Sarthe, France.

2

## Paraliturgical Music: Hymns

The music of the Mass itself consists of the chants and clerical intonations, all of which are sung by the *schola cantorum* and the priests, deacons, and readers, respectively. However, there are opportunities to perform sacred music that is not strictly part of the liturgy itself in order to "fill in the time" during liturgical actions of the clergy. This type of music is known as *paraliturgical* music. Extra time that invites the performance of paraliturgical music occurs in four key places during the Mass: the procession of the clergy and acolytes to the front of the church as Mass begins (Procession), the preparation of the altar during the Offertory as the priest or deacon says the Canon of the Mass (Offertory), during the administration of the Eucharist (Communion), and during the recession as the clergy and acolytes process back to the narthex after the dismissal (Recession).

In continuing the tradition of congregational singing that hearkens back to the sixteenth century in the Western Church, these are the times during the Mass when hymns are sung by both the choir and the faithful in attendance. Although the hymns are not technically part of the Mass, it is customary to sing hymns that have texts relevant to the Mass readings and texts of the day, such as singing Christmas-themed hymns and carols for the Mass of the Nativity, and so forth. While they can be viewed as music to "fill in the time" required by the clergy and acolytes so that the congregation does not wait for them in awkward silence, hymns have become an important part of Christian praise.

The hymns we sing at St. Stephen Orthodox Church can be found in the *St. Ambrose Hymnal* which has been approved for Western Rite use by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North American.

Although we typically think of hymns as sacred songs sung in unison or in multiple parts by a choir and congregation and accompanied by instruments (most notably the pipe organ), this is more of a modern phenomenon. At St. Stephen Orthodox Church, members of the *schola cantorum* may be required to sing more advanced repertory from the Western art music tradition. These could be *conductus* (unaccompanied strophic Latin songs in multiple voice parts) from the Middle Ages, Medieval or Renaissance motets, or polyphonic antiphons/anthems. Some of these may be in Latin or other languages.

Occasionally, the music program at St. Stephen Orthodox Church may also use non-vocal incidental music in the form of a consort or solo organ pieces for those willing and capable to play them. Opportunities for musicians to perform with the *schola cantorum* are available and should be encouraged.

## Suggested Hymns Throughout the Year\*

\*Numbered hymns are taken from the Saint Ambrose Hymnal (SAH)

#### Advent I

Processional - 42 Wake, O Wake! With Tidings Thrilling Offertory - 33 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending Communion - 25 Behold the Bridegroom Cometh Recessional - 26 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Processional - 31 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding Offertory - 38 Saviour of the Nations, Come

Communion - 32 Hark! The Glad Sound, The Saviour Comes Recessional - 40 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Processional - 35 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Offertory - 28 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People Communion - 37 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers Recessional - 39 The Advent of Our God

#### Advent IV

Processional - 27 Come Thou Redeemer of Earth Offertory - 34 O Come, O Come Emmanuel Communion - 30 Gabriel's Message Recessional - 40 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

#### Christmas

Processional - Silent Night (Not in SAH) Offertory - 55 O Come All Ye Faithful Communion - God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (Not in SAH) Recessional - 46 Angels We Have Heard on High

#### Saint Stephen's Day

Processional - 193 Saint of God, Elect and Precious Offertory - 251 Let Us Now Our Voices Raise Communion - Good King Wenceslas (Not in SAH)

Recessional - 40 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

#### First Sunday After Christmas

Processional - 51 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Offertory - 59 The First Nowell Communion – 153 Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our Recessional - 48 Ev'ry Creature, by Thee Made

#### Second Sunday After Christmas

Processional - 47 Bright and Joyful Is the Morn Offertory - 60 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night Communion - 57 Sing, O Sing This Blessed Morn

Recessional - 51 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#### **Epiphany**

Processional - 61 All Praise to Thee, O Lord Offertory - 63 Earth Has Many a Noble City Communion - 64 From God, By Mystic Virgin Birth Recessional - 65 Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing

#### Epiphany I

Processional - 62 As With Gladness Men of Old Offertory - 67 The Only Son from Heaven Communion - 186 Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly Recessional - 287 God Himself is With Us

#### Epiphany II

Processional - 66 Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise Offertory - 71 When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known Communion - 72 Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness Recessional - 274 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

#### Epiphany III

Processional - 61 All Praise to Thee, O Lord Offertory - 318 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High Communion - 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness Recessional - 69 Thou Who at Cana's Wedding Feast

#### Epiphany IV

Processional - 67 The Only Son From Heaven Offertory - 64 From God, By Mystic Virgin Birth Communion - 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional - 309 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#### Epiphany V

Processional - 65 Hail. Thou Source of Every Blessing Offertory - 325 Once He came in Blessing Communion - 334 Songs of Praise the Angels Sang Recessional - 342 Thou Art the Way to Thee Alone

#### Epiphany VI

Processional - 297 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord Offertory - 348 When Morning Gilds the Skies Communion - 156 Father, We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted Recessional - 331 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

#### **Epiphany VII**

Processional - 71 When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known Offertory - 266 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus! Communion - 61 All Praise to Thee, O Lord Recessional - 73 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

#### Septuagesima

Processional - 345 We Come Unto Our Father's God Offertory - 285 Go, Labor On! Communion - 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional - 283 Fight the Good Fight

#### Sexagesima

Processional - 265 All My Hope On God Is Founded Offertory - 307 Lord, As to Thy Dear Cross We Flee Communion - 315 O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand Recessional - 202 Thou Art the Christ, O Lord

Quinquagesima

Processional - 313 O Christ, Our King, Give Ear! Offertory - 309 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Communion - 318 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Recessional - 344 To the Name That Brings Salvation

Ash Wednesday

Processional - 84 O Kind Creator, Bow Thine Ear Offertory - 89 With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh Communion - 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent Recessional - 87 The Fast As Taught By Holy Lore

Processional - 78 Forty Days and Forty Nights Offertory - 80 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days Communion - 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Recessional - 308 Lord Jesus, Think On Me

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Processional - 30 Gabriel's Message

Offertory - 182 O What Light and Glory Deck Thee Communion - 188 Sing We 'Ave,' Word Endearing

Recessional - 189 The Lord Whom Earth and Sea and Sky

Processional - 81 Now Christ, Thou Sun of Righteousness Offertory - 303 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts Communion - 82 Now is the Healing Time Decreed Recessional - 274 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Processional – 77 Christian Dost Thou See Them Offertory – 76 By Fruit, the Ancient Foe's Device Communion – 83 O Jesu Christ, From Thee Began Recessional – 304 Lift High the Cross

Processional – 78 Forty Days and Forty Nights Offertory – 88 The Glory of These Forty Days Communion – 154 Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord Recessional - 79 Jesu, Name All Names Above

Passion Sunday

Processional – 90 A Most Grieving Mother Offertory - 94 O Sacred Head, Surrounded Communion – 163 O Food of Men Wayfaring Recessional – 346 We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died

Palm Sunday

Processional – 98 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! Offertory - 94 O Sacred Head, Surrounded Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 93 My Song of Love Unknown

Holy Thursday

Processional – 168 Therefore We, Before Him Bending Offertory – 167 Thou, Who At Thy First Eucharist Didst Pray Communion – 164 O Saving Victim Recessional – 157 Humbly I Adore Thee

Good Friday

Processional - NONE Offertory – NONE Communion - NONE Recessional - NONE

Adoration of the Cross – Vexilla Regis

Holy Saturday

Processional - NONE

Offertory – 85 Servant of God, Remember

Communion – 150 Bread Of Heaven On Thee We Feed

Recessional – 112 Let Us Rise In Early Morning

Pascha (Easter Sunday)

Processional - 102 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Offertory - 124 Welcome, Happy Morning

Communion - 153 Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our

Recessional – 110 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter I (Low Sunday)

Processional – 106 Christ the Lord is Risen Today Offertory – 113 O Sons and Daughters of the King

Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision

Recessional – 120 The Day of Resurrection!

Easter II

Processional – 116 That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright Offertory – 117 The Church of God Lifts Up Her Voice

Communion - 165 Shepherd of Souls

Recessional – 109 He is Risen. He is Risen!

Easter III

Processional – 127 Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem Offertory – 104 Christ the Lord is Risen Again

Communion – 158 Here, While the Cherubim within the Veil Recessional – 123 Thou Hallowed Chosen Morn of Praise

Easter IV

Processional – 125 Weep Not, Mary, Weep No Longer Offertory – 126 When Jesus Christ, the King of Glory

Communion - 147 Remember We That Eve

Recessional - 122 The Strife is O'er

Easter V

Processional – 120 The Day of Resurrection! Offertory – 102 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing Communion – 324 Only-Begotten Word of God Eternal Recessional – 118 The Clouds of Night are Past Away

Ascension

Processional – 129 Hail Thee, Festival Day! Offertory – 130 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise Communion – 131 Look, Ye Saints, The Sight is Glorious Recessional – 133 Sing we Triumphant Hymns of Praise

Sunday After Ascension

Processional – 338 The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns

Offertory – 266 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Communion – 160 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor Recessional – 290 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

Pentecost

Processional – 135 Blest Joys for Mighty Wonders Wrought Sequence – 137 Come, Thou Holy Paraclete Offertory - 139 Let the Holy Spirit's Grace Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional - 276 Come Down, O Love Divine

Trinity Sunday

Processional – 144 O God of Mercy Passing Thought Offertory – 292 Holy Father, Great Creator

Communion - 142 Be Near Us Holy Trinity Recessional – 145 O Holy Father, Merciful and Loving

#### Corpus Christi

Processional – 152 Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus Sequence – 146 Laud, O Sion, Thy Salvation Offertory – 167 Thou, Who At Thy First Eucharist Didst Pray

Communion – Corpus Christi Chants

Recessional – 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness

#### Second Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 282 Faith of our Fathers Taught of Old Offertory – 310 Lord, to Our Humble Prayers Attend Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 274 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

#### Third Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 265 All My Hope on God is Founded Offertory – 339 The King of Love My Shepherd Is Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 343 Thou, Lord, Hast Power to Heal

# Fourth Sunday After Pentecost - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Processional – 272 Beloved, Let Us Love Offertory – 316 O God, Our Help in Ages Past Offertory (Visitation of the BVM) - 183 Portal of the World's Salvation

Communion – 162 My God, Thy Table Now is Spread Recessional – 266 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

#### Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 276 Come Down, O Love Divine Offertory – 288 God, My King, Thy Might Confessing Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional – 319 O Love of God, How Strong and True

#### Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 337 The Great Creator of the Worlds Offertory – 275 Christ Is Made the True Foundation Communion – 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness Recessional – 339 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

#### Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 331 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart Offertory – 325 Once He Came in Blessing Communion – 153 Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our

Recessional – 326 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

#### Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 341 Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old Offertory – 294 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 300 I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

#### Transfiguration of Our Lord

Processional – 214 O Light of Light, By Love Inclined Offertory – 213 In Days of Old on Sinai Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional – 215 O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

#### Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 297 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
Offertory – 301 Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision
Recessional – 324 Only-Begotten Word of God Eternal

#### Holy Name

Processional – 196 The Ancient Law Fulfilled Offertory – 79 Jesu, Name All Names Above Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 344 To The Name That Brings Salvation

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Processional – 171 Blest Guardian of all Virgin Souls Offertory – 188 Sing we 'Ave,' Word Endearing Communion – 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness Recessional – 173 Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above

#### Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 276 Come Down, O Love Divine Offertory – 89 With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh Communion – 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness Recessional – 309 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#### Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 315 O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand Offertory – 308 Lord Jesus, Think On Me Communion – 153 Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our Guest

Recessional – 314 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#### Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 293 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name! Offertory – 307 Lord, As to Thy Dear Cross We Flee Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 313 O Christ, Our King, Give Ear!

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 294 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts Offertory – 341 Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional – 343 Thou, Lord, Hast Power to Heal

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 328 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Offertory – 316 O God, Our Help in Ages Past Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 312 Now Thank We All Our God

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Processional – 266 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!
Offertory – 324 Only-Begotten Word of God Eternal
Communion – 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness
Recessional – 273 Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power

### Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Processional – 329 Praise Ye the Lord, Ye Servants of the Lord

Offertory – 325 Once He Came in Blessing Communion – 153 Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our Guest

Recessional – 318 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 272 Beloved, Let Us Love Offertory – 319 Love of God, How Strong and True! Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 339 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 337 The Great Creator of the Worlds Offertory – 301 Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional – 344 To The Name That Brings Salvation Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 280 Come, Thou Almighty King Offertory – 283 Fight the Good Fight Communion – 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness Recessional – 333 Soldiers of Christ, Arise

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 307 Lord, as to Thy Dear Cross We Flee Offertory – 299 In Thine Image, Holy God Communion – 153 Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our Guest Recessional – 290 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

Christ the King (Pentecost XXI)

Processional – 132 O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire
Offertory – 291 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Recessional – 134 See the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph

The Feast of All Saints
Processional – 235 Who Are These Like Stars Appearing
Offertory – 229 Give Us the Wings of Faith
Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision
Recessional – 231 Joy and Triumph Everlasting

Sunday in the Octave of All Saints (Pentecost XXII)

Processional – 240 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Offertory – 226 For All the Saints

Communion – 153 Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to Be Our

Guest

Recessional – 230 Hark! The Sound of Holy Voices

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
Processional – 282 Faith of Our Fathers, Taught of Old
Offertory – 336 The God of Abraham Praise
Communion – 155 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness
Recessional – 273 Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost Processional - 62 As With Gladness Men of Old Offertory - 67 The Only Son from Heaven Communion - 186 Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly Recessional - 287 God Himself is With Us

Twenty-Fifth (Last) Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 334 Songs of Praise the Angels Sang Offertory – 304 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional – 265 All My Hope on God is Founded

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 280 Come, Thou Almighty King Offertory – 283 Fight the Good Fight Communion – 159 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Recessional – 333 Soldiers of Christ, Arise

Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost Processional – 307 Lord, as to Thy Dear Cross We Flee Offertory – 299 In Thine Image, Holy God Communion – 270 Be Thou My Vision Recessional – 290 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus