

WEDDING LITURGY SUGGESTIONS FOR MUSIC

(Rev. 2011)

Please feel free to call or email me at any time. Molly Mahoney, 518 W. Ellet St. Philadelphia, PA 19119, 215-991-0801, mollymus@aol.com. All citations are from Breaking Bread 2011. I tried to include composers as well, in case you would like to listen to some of the classical pieces online.

Prelude Music: Instrumental with some vocals: Classical, choice of organist; contemporary piano, Irish piano (with instrument if desired)

Music for the Seating of Parents and Grandparents: Usually sung (Any of these would work for the Preparation of the Gifts as well)

Not For Tongues of Heaven's Angels (Haas)
Wherever You Go (Haas)
My Heart Belongs to You
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)
The Wedding Song
When Love is Found (A Shaker Hymn) (BB #685)
Gift of Love (First Corinthians text to above Shaker Hymn melody)

Processional: Recommended one piece for both bridesmaids and bride. In contemporary weddings, often the priest leads the procession down the aisle. If two separate songs are desired, the first three on the list would work for the bridesmaids, with one of the others then used for the bride.

Canon in D (Pachelbel)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach, instrumental version)
St. Anthony's Chorale (Haydn)
Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)
Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
Menuet from Fireworks Music (Handel)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

This section of the Liturgy usually has one reading from the Old Testament, a Responsorial Psalm (sung), followed by another reading from the New Testament, a Gospel Acclamation (sung), and the Gospel read by the presiding priest.

Suggestions for Psalms:

Psalm 33: Blessed are we, beloved of God, chosen as faithful people. (Cotter)
Verses: (1) Delight in God, ye lovers of God. Gather your praise into one voice. Sing a new song, proclaim your joy, for the word of the Lord is justice. (2) We wait for you, God, our help and our shield, for in you our hearts find their joy. We place our trust in your holy name. Be with us, O Lord, in our waiting.

Psalm 103: Loving and Forgiving are you, O Lord; slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving and forgiving are you. (Soper) (BB #678)

Psalm 118: This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad! This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice in salvation. (BB #603)

Psalm 128: O blest are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. (Inwood) (BB #823)

Psalm 89: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Schoenbachler) (BB #796)

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia (Walker)

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Unity Candle – This ceremony is not generally recommended, but I would play instrumental music here, or a sung blessing to the couple.

Petitions or Prayer of the Faithful: Usually a member of the family reads this.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts: Usually a close friend or member of the family brings up the gifts. Any of the prelude solos would be fine here, or one of the following congregational hymns.

Blest Are They (BB #586)
We Have Been Told (BB #516)
Morning Has Broken (BB #642)
Prayer of St. Francis (BB #493)
Servant Song (McCargill) (BB #373)
The Servant Song (Gillard) (BB #375)

Mass Parts Sung: Either Mass of Creation or Community Mass

Sign of Peace: A short blessing can be sung here, or instrumental improvisation is fine, too.

Communion: Any congregational communion hymn is fine. Also solos from above prelude list.

Panis Angelicus (Franck)
Panis Angelicus (chant) (BB#366)
Taste and See (Moore) (BB #331)
As Grains of Wheat (BB #328)
Behold the Lamb (BB #335)
Gift of Finest Wheat)BB #325)
We Have Been Told (BB #516)
One Bread, One Body (BB #355)
The Supper of the Lord (BB #339)
Servant Song (McCargill) (BB #373)

Visitation to Blessed Mother: This is optional.
Ave Maria (Schubert) or Ave Maria (Bach Gounod)
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman (BB #707)

Recessional: Wedding March (Mendelssohn)
La Rejoissance from Fireworks Music (Handel)
Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
Hornpipe from Water Music (Handel)
Break Forth into Joy (Bach)
Ode to Joy (Beethoven)