

Tridentine Community News

December 11, 2016 - Third Sunday of Advent

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Tones of the *Ite, Missa Est*

There are eighteen Gregorian Chant settings of the Mass. Some are designated for certain days or seasons. For example, Mass I is used during the Easter season, Mass IX is for Feasts of Our Lady, Mass XI is for Sundays After Pentecost, and Masses XVII and XVIII are for Advent and Lent – neither includes a *Glória*. Those are merely recommendations, not requirements, which is why other Gregorian Mass settings are often used, especially on Sundays after Pentecost.

Besides the *Kyrie*, *Glória*, *Sanctus*, and *Agnus Dei* which comprise each Mass setting [*Credo*s are independently numbered, for example the familiar *Credo III* is not from Mass III], each Mass also includes a setting of the *Ite, Missa Est*. The tone, or melody, of the *Ite* mimics the *Kyrie* for that Mass. For example, in Mass IV, often used on Feasts of the Apostles, the beginning of the *Kyrie* looks like this:

1. x. c.
K Y-ri-e * e-lé-i-son. iij.

The Mass IV *Ite* repeats the same melody:

1.
I - te, mÍssa est.
Dé-o grá-ti-as.

The servers and congregation respond with *Deo grátias*, sung to the same melody.

An interesting development took place in 1960: Prior to that date, in Lent and Advent, the *Ite* was replaced at the end of Mass by *Benedicámus Dómino*. The 1960 revision to the rubrics ordered that *Benedicámus* only be used when a procession follows Mass. Prior to this date, therefore, there had been no need for an *Ite* in the Lent and Advent Mass settings. Chant books published since 1960 now include the following, rather simple *Ite* for Masses XVII and XVIII:

4.
I - te, mÍssa est.

An allied question is why this *Ite*, which is also specified for the infrequently used Mass XVI, does not mirror the melody of the *Kyrie* of those Mass settings. The answer is that this is actually the *Ite* of the infrequently heard Mass XV; it mirrors *Kyrie XV*. Church authorities evidently decided that a more austere and simple *Ite* was more appropriate for Advent and Lent.

Other Conclusions to the Mass

Let's get back to that rarely-heard *Benedicámus Dómino*. The only liturgical procession we typically encounter after Mass is on Corpus Christi (Marian processions do not count, as they do not have official liturgical form). There are a few settings of the *Benedicámus Dómino*, the more elaborate of which are intended for more musically-skilled celebrants. For example, the altar missal includes the following simple and not-so-simple settings:

Quando post Missam sequitur aliqua processio, loco Ite, missa est, cantatur:

B e-ne-di-cámus Dó-mi-no.

vel, ad libitum:

B e-ne-di-cámus Dó-mi-no.

As with the *Ite*, the servers and congregation respond with *Deo grátias*, sung to the same melody.

There is one other instance when the *Ite* is replaced with something else. In a Requiem Mass, its place is taken by the *Requiescant in Pace*. There is only one, simple tone, not based on a Mass setting:

R Equi-éscant in pá-ce. Amen.
May they rest in peace. So be it.

The servers and congregation respond with a simple *Amen*.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 12/12 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Tue. 12/13 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr)

Sat. 12/17 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Ember Saturday of Advent)