

A Simple Summary of the structure of the Mass and the music in Mass

Here is a summary of our Mass and Music structure – without knowing this Mass can seem to be a very complicated thing – but it's not really. Mass can be divided into 3 parts plus a welcome and farewell part.

Mass Structure

1. **Introductory rites** – we welcome our priest and each other
2. **Liturgy of the Word** – three readings to reflect on – the First from the Old Testament (written before Jesus), the Second from the New Testament (written after Jesus' death), the third is a Gospel reading (about the life of Jesus) – a reflection (homily) from the priest to help us reflect
3. **Liturgy of the Eucharist** – preparing the bread and wine for Communion
4. **Communion rite** – we say the Our Father and make peace before sharing in Communion
5. **Concluding rite** – final blessing

Now add in the Music!

1. **Introductory rites**
 - a. Entrance Song
 - b. Lord Have Mercy
2. **Liturgy of the Word**
 - a. Responsorial Psalm (between First and Second readings)
 - b. Alleluia (after Second Reading) or during Lent – The Lenten Proclamation
3. **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
 - a. Offertory Song
 - b. Hosanna (Sanctus)
 - c. Memorial Acclamation
 - d. Amen
4. **Communion rite** – we say the Our Father and make peace before sharing in Communion
 - a. Our Father
 - b. Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)
 - c. Communion Song
 - d. Thanksgiving Song
5. **Concluding rite** – final blessing
 - a. Leaving Song

So you see there are five potential places for songs (also called hymns) that may change from Mass to Mass plus the other fixed pieces of singing that will be the same for most masses.

1. **Entrance Song (Coming in)**
2. **Offertory Song (After prayers of the faithful)**
3. **Communion Song (During communion)**
4. **Thanksgiving Song (After communion)**
5. **Recessional Song (Going out)**

Those fixed parts are the same all over the world, though maybe in different languages – so if you've learnt it you can play it in Poland, America, Indonesia...anywhere you find a Catholic mass happening!

Five songs chosen for the first three youth oriented masses at least are:

1. Entrance Song – Christ Be Our Light (to be on Mass Sheet)
2. Offertory Song – I give you my heart (to be on Mass Sheet)
3. Communion Song – Jesus you are bread for us (hymn book)
4. Thanksgiving Song - Instrumental reflection
5. Recessional Song - We are companions on the journey (hymn book)

YouTube links

They may be at a different pace – but you can get a feel for the songs.

Companions on the Journey - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvCYY4ooBq8>

I give you my heart - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uqBxizNZJ4>

Christ Be Our Light - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBK3qTlGaS0>

Jesus you are bread for us - <http://www2.spiritandsong.com/compositions/2442>