

# Holy Week

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## CHAPTER

# 1

## VIGIL OF PENTECOST - MISSA CANTATA

### PREPARATION

1. Candles remain unlit for the prophecies, and get lit during the Litany of the Saints. The ACs candles start on the Epistle side credence table. The processional cross is placed near the same credence.
2. The organ may not be played until after the *Gloria* is intoned by C.
3. The vestments for the ceremonies before the Mass are violet. The vestments for the Mass are red.
4. *Flectamus genua* is not said after the *Oremus* because it is Paschal time.
5. If there is a baptismal font, it must be blessed on this day.<sup>1</sup> This ceremony is the same as that of Holy Saturday, except for the prayer recited before the entrance of the baptism.
6. The Pascal Candle is placed on the credence table, to be used for the blessing of the font. After the blessing of the font, the candle is extinguished and brought into the sacristy. It is forbidden to have the candle lit for the Mass of this day<sup>2</sup>.

### PROPHECIES

1. The procession is in the usual manner. C kisses the altar and then goes to the missal at the Epistle side and waits for the lectors to begin the prophecies.
2. ACs accompany Prophecy singers to the lectern, which is in the usual spot for singing the Epistle.

<sup>1</sup>S.R.C. 3331.

<sup>2</sup>S.R.C. 4048, 10.

<sup>3</sup>This oration is proper to the vigil of Pentecost, but the rest of the ceremony is exactly the same as on Holy Saturday.

3. There is no *Flectamus genua* because it is Paschal Time.
4. During the 6<sup>th</sup> Prophecy, MC prepares a cushion at the foot of the altar, if it is going to be used for the prostration; ACs light candles.

### BLESSING OF THE FONT

5. After the Prophecies are finished, C goes to sedilia *per breviorum*; C removes namiple and chasuble and puts on a violet cope.
6. CB with cross and ACs with lit candles go to the center of the sanctuary. TH takes the Pascal candle and walks behind them, to lead the procession. The schola lines up before CB and ACs.
7. MC stands with C at the foot of the altar, holding biretta.
8. MC signals for a genuflection, and all process to the font, the schola singing *Sicut cervus*.
9. At the entrance, TH, ACs and CB turn to face C, without entering the baptism.
10. MC holds the Missal and C sings, without biretta, the Oration *Concede, quæsumus*<sup>3</sup> in the ferial tone.
11. Once the Oration is finished, T stands close to the font, preferably to the right of D, but not blocking MC's way. CB and ACs stand in the back of the baptism, facing the font. The schola enters the baptism and stands in front of the CB and ACs. C approaches the lectern and removes biretta.

12. C sings *Dóminus vobíscum, Orémus* and the first oration *recto tono*.

13. C begins Preface with hands joined. ...*gratiam de Spiritu Sancto*: C divides water in the form of a cross. MC ministers towel<sup>4</sup>. ...*inficiendo corrumpat*: C touches water. ...*indulgentiam consequatur*: C makes the sign of the cross over the water three times without touching it. ...*ferebatur*: C sprinkles water<sup>5</sup> in the four cardinal directions. C sings *Hæc nobis præcepta* in the Lesson tone, breathes over the water three times in the form of a cross, and continues *Tu has simplices aquas* in the same tone. MC takes Paschal Candle from TH.

14. Once C has he has finished singing MC gives him the Paschal Candle. C sings *Descendat* in the preface tone, raises Candle out of the water, then lowers it again, deeper than before. C sings *Descendat* in a higher tone, raises Candle out of the water, then lowers it yet again, this time to the bottom. C sings *Descendat* for a final time, in a higher tone than before.

15. With the Candle still in the water, C breathes three times over the water in the form of a letter Psi  $\psi$ . C sings *Totámque hujus...effectu* and removes the Candle. MC returns the Candle to TH, who dries it.

16. C continues in the preface tone, singing as far as *infántiam renascátur* and then reads the conclusion in a loud voice; schola answers *Amen*.

17. MC fills aspensory with water and hands the sprinkler to C with the usual kisses. C blesses himself, sprinkles those who are around the font and then, sprinkles the congregation.

18. **N.B.** If there is another priest present, he may sprinkle the congregation. Wearing a surplice and violet stole, he presents the sprinkler to the C with kisses. After the C has blessed him and the Ministers, he receives the sprinkler from the C with kisses. With the MC at his right, he sprinkles the congregation<sup>6</sup>.

19. MC pours the needed quantity of water into the baptismal font and puts the tray of oils on edge of the font.

20. C pours a little of the Oil of the Catechumens in the

form of a cross into the water saying in a loud voice *Sanctificétur et fecundétur*.

21. C pours Chrism in the same way, but saying *Infúsio Chrismatis*.

22. C takes both oils and pours them at the same time into the water saying the *Commixtio Chrismatis* and making the sign of the cross three times.

23. C mixes the oil and water with his right hand. C cleanses his hands, MC ministering the towel<sup>7</sup>.

24. The procession goes back the same way it came. The schola begins the Litany of the Saints as soon as the procession leaves the baptistry; the invocations are doubled.

25. TH puts the Candle in the holder and turns it so that the cross faces the people; CB and ACs go to the credence.

26. C goes to the sedillia removes cope.

#### LITANY OF THE SAINTS

27. At a signal from MC, C goes to the altar, kneels and prostrates. MC kneels behind and to the right of C, signalling all to kneel.

28. At *Per sanctam resurrectionem tuam* ACs and TH go to the center of the sanctuary; MC gets biretta.

29. At *Peccatóres* Ministers rise. All genuflect and go to the sacristy, ministers wearing birettas.

#### FIRST MASS OF EASTER

30. C vests in white vestments. Altar is prepared for Mass.

31. At *Christe audi nos* MC gives a signal and all bow to the Cross in the sacristy. Procession in as usual<sup>8</sup>.

32. No Introit.

33. Bells are rung throughout the sung *Glória*.

34. Acolytes do not carry candles at the Gospel procession.

35. No Creed.

36. Mass concludes in the usual manner.

<sup>4</sup>C dries his hand every time he touches the water.

<sup>5</sup>MC makes sure that the Missal is closed before C sprinkles.

<sup>6</sup>Rev. Laurence J. O'Connell. *Holy Week in Large and Small Churches*. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1947, p. 230.

<sup>7</sup>MC should cover the font, lest any of the Baptismal Water be taken (Holy Saturday, Brooksville, FL, 2021).

<sup>8</sup>If the baptismal font was blessed, the AC's candles are already on the credence table; if the font was not blessed, the ACs carry them. O'Connell, *Holy Week in Large and Small Churches*, footnote, p. 233.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

O'Connell, Rev. Laurence J. *Holy Week in Large and Small Churches*. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1947.