

When to begin and end the music of the liturgy

- Opening Song:** Begin when the presider indicates that he is ready. Avoid arbitrary omissions of verses or stanzas that might distort the meaning of the text.
- Glory to God:** [not in Advent or Lent]
For Penitential Rite Form 1 “I Confess” and Form 2 “Have mercy on us Lord...” wait until the Kyrie (Lord Have mercy, Christ have mercy) is completed.
For Form 3, “You were sent...Lord have mercy”: Immediately after the presider says “May almighty God have mercy on us...bring us to everlasting life.”
- Psalm:** After the 1st reading, leave a short pause then begin when cantor is at ambo.
- Gospel Acclamation:** Begin when the presider stands.
- Preparation Song:** Begin after the presider closes the Intercessions with prayer and the assembly is settled. End when he finishes the hand washing.
- Holy:** Immediately following the preface which ends “as without end we acclaim,” or “as in joyful celebration we acclaim,” or “and with joy we proclaim”
- Memorial Acclamation:** Immediately after the presider says: “The mystery of faith.”
- Amen:** Immediately after “Through him, and with him...forever and ever.”
- Lamb of God:** Begin as the priest breaks the host over the chalice.
- Communion Song:** Begin as the presider consumes the host; End after the last person receives.
- Closing Song:** Begin immediately after the people say: “Thanks be to God.”

For additional detail, see Chapter V, “The Musical Structure of Catholic Worship,” in *Sing to the Lord, Music in Divine Worship*, USCCB, 2008, available for \$10 from the Office of Worship.