

MCI Session, January 10, 2015

Paraliturgical Hymns

Introduction

Paraliturgical hymns are “religions or devotional songs, sung by the faithful but not part of the Church’s formal liturgy.” – also called “spiritual songs.”

Compared to liturgical hymns they are:

- Much more recent
- More varied (in both text and music)
- More tender but less theological

Why spiritual songs?

1. To sing outside church on religious occasions
2. To sing inside church before and after liturgical services
3. Serve to unite the community and foster religious devotion
4. “They are precious to us because they are ours” – Fr. Uriel

Where can we find spiritual songs?

- In the back of prayer books and liturgy books (e.g. the 1978 Divine Liturgy book)
- In special collections:
 - *Uzhorod Pisennik*; *Prešov Duchovny Pisnyj* (1969), *Vospojme Sohlasno* (2009)
 - *Christ is Born* (1969); *Hymns for Great Lent*; *Marian Hymnal* (1984)
 - *Byzantine Catholic Hymnal*
- Newly translated hymns
- Newly composed hymns

Other characteristics:

- Refrains often repeated
- Some have *many* verses

Marian Hymns

(From the *Byzantine Catholic Hymnal*)

- All the Faithful Come Before You (accentuation in refrain)
- Mary Look Upon Us**
- O Mary Mother of Our God (accentuation at beginning)
- Rejoice, O Purest Mother
- Virgin, We Beseech You
- We Hasten to Your Patronage
- When the Angel Came
- Where Our Mother Reigns in Heaven (not well known!)

(From the *Marian Hymnal*)

- Beautiful Holy Queen
- Christians Join in Our Procession (pilgrimage hymns)
Come to Uniontown
- From Our Hearts We Sinners (also in Hungarian)
- Mother of All People
- Rejoice, O Purest Mother (good example of a feast-day hymn)
- Rejoice, O Purest Queen (tricky melody and accents)
(frequent source melody – see *O Father Nicholas*)
- Virgin Mother, Intercessor (watch rhythm)
- You, O Mary our Dear Lady

One asterisk (*) – alternate version will be provided

Two asterisks (**) – Communion hymn melody

Hymns to God

Hosts of Angels on High	(Holy Trinity; rhythm issues)
So Great the Glory (“So Great Is God”)*	
We Thank You, God Most High	
A New Commandment	(accent at beginning; how can it be fixed?)
Come Now to Us, O Christ	
Holy This Moment	(Eucharistic adoration)
Lord, In This Holy Mystery	
O Jesus, Lord	
I Do Believe	(hymn from Great and Holy Thursday)
Give Me Your Body, O Christ*	(communion hymn of Pascha)
O Holy Spirit*	

“Lenten” Hymns

Beneath Your Cross I Stand	At the Most Holy Cross of our Savior
Come Now All You Faithful	Earth and Heaven Mourn
Christ Our King Who Reigns with Justice	Have Mercy on Me, O My God (Psalm 50)
Having Suffered	O Soul So Sinful
In Gethsemene’s Darkness	The Grieving Mother
Now Do I Go	We Venerate, O Christ
The Sentence is Passed	

Hymns for the Liturgical Year

Palm Sunday	Rejoice Today With All Your Heart** O Son of David
Pascha	Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!* Let Us Joyfully All Sing
Ascension	The Lord Ascends
Pentecost	
St. Nicholas (December 6)	O Who Loves Nicholas the Saintly** O Father Nicholas
Philippian Fast	The Ancient Prophecies Come, O Jesus (responsory)
Christmas	Angels from Heaven Eternal God God's Son is Born* In the Town of Bethlehem* Jesus Came from Heaven Joyful News Joyful Tidings Come Our Way Rejoice, All Nations When the Brilliant Star Shone Wondrous News**
January 6 (Theophany)	To Jordan's Water The Choirs of Angels Sing
Entrance (November 21)	Sound the Trumpet

What Else?

Lectionary Hymns – Choral settings

Hymns for the Departed

Immaculate Mary – “English” Christmas Carols – Vošel jesi