

The Rite of Stripping of the Altar

The Service concludes with the Benedicamus, there is no Benediction, then the Celebrant chants the Antiphon and the first half of the first verse of Psalm 22, then the congregation continues the chanting of the rest of the psalm.

The Celebrant strips the Altar. The communion vessels are removed first, followed by the altar cross, missal stand, altar candles, altar paraments, pulpit and lectern paraments, chancel candles and candlestands, chancel banners, chancel flowers, and any other items of liturgical use or adornment remaining in the chancel.

If the psalm ends before the stripping of the Altar is finished, the psalm is repeated until the stripping is finished.

When the stripping is finished, the verse of the psalm that the congregation is chanting is completed, and then the Celebrant chants the closing antiphon.

Afterwards, everyone leaves in silence.

Antiphon



P: THEY DI- || vide My garments a- | mong | them, *

P: And for My clothing | they | cast | lots.

Psalm 22



P: || My God, My God, why have You for- | *sa-ken* • | Me? *

C: Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of | My | groan- | ing?

C: || O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not | hear; | - *

C: And in the night season, and am | not | si- | lent.



C: || But You are | ho- | ly, *

C: Enthroned in the praises of | Is- | ra- | el.

C: || Our fathers trusted in | You; | - *

C: They trusted, and You de- | liv- | ered | them.

C: || They cried to You, and were de- | li- | vered; *

C: They trusted in You, and were | not | a- | shamed.

C: || But I am a worm, and | no | man; *

C: A reproach of men, and despised by | the | peo- | ple.

C: || All those who see Me ridi- | cule | Me; *

C: They shoot out the lip, they shake the | head, | say- | ing,

C: || “He trusted in the Lord, let Him | *res-cue* • | Him; *

C: Let Him deliver Him, since He de- | lights | in | Him!”

C: || But You are He who took Me out of the | womb; | - *

C: You made Me trust while on My | mo- | ther’s | breasts.

C: || I was cast upon You from | birth. | - *

C: From My mother’s womb You have | been | My | God.

C: || Be not far from Me, for trouble is | near; | - *

C: For there is | none | to | help.

C: || Many bulls have sur- | *round-ed* • | Me; *

C: Strong bulls of Bashan have en- | cir- | cled | Me.

C: || They gape at Me with their | mouths, | - *

C: Like a raging and roar- | ing | li- | on.

C: || I am poured out like wa-*ter*, (+) and all My bones are out of | joint; | - *

C: My heart is like wax; It has melted | with- | in | Me.

C: || My strength is dried up like a pot-*sherd*, (+) and My tongue clings to My | jaws; | - *

C: You have brought Me to the | dust | of | death.

C: || For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has en- | closed | Me. *

C: They pierced My hands | and | My | feet;

C: || I can count all My | bones. | - *

C: They look and | stare | at | Me.

C: || They divide My garments a- | mong | them, *

C: And for My clothing | they | cast | lots.

C: || But You, O Lord, do not be far | from | Me; *



C: O My Strength, hasten | to | help | Me!
 C: || Deliver Me from the | sword, | - *
 C: My precious life from the power | of | the | dog.
 C: || Save Me from the lion's | mouth | - *
 C: And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have | an- |
 swered | Me.
 C: || I will declare Your name to My | breth- | ren; *
 C: In the midst of the assembly I | will | praise | You.
 C: || You who fear the Lord, praise *Him!* (+) All you descendants of
 Jacob, glori- | fy | Him, *
 C: And fear Him, all you offspring of | Is- | ra- | el!
 C: || For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the af- |
 flic- | ted; *
 C: Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried
 to | Him, | He | heard.
 C: || My praise shall be of You in the great as- | semb- | ly; *
 C: I will pay My vows before those | who | fear | Him.
 C: || The poor shall eat and be | *sat-is-* · | fied; *
 C: Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart
 live | for- | ev- | er!
 C: || All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the |
 Lord, | - *
 C: And all the families of the nations shall worship | be- |
 fore | You.
 C: || For the kingdom is the | Lord's, | - *
 C: And He rules over | the | na- | tions.
 C: || All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and | wor- | ship; *
 C: All those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him,
 even he who cannot keep him- | self | a- | live.
 C: || A posterity shall | serve | Him. *
 C: It will be recounted of the Lord to the next gen- | er- | a- |
 tion,
 C: || They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who
 will be | born, | - *
 C: That He | has | done | this.

Repeat Psalm as many times as is necessary

When the stripping is finished, the verse of the psalm that the congregation is chanting is completed, and then the Celebrant chants the closing antiphon.

Antiphon



P: THEY DI- || vide My garments a- | mong | them, *
P: And for My clothing | they | cast | lots.

Silent Prayer

Leave in Silence

After everyone has left, or at a convenient time before Good Friday Divine Service, the altar, pulpit and lectern are washed by the clergy.