

# **TLM 201: Procession, Asperges, and Prayers at the Foot of the Altar**

## **Procession**

- Old Testament Types: 40 years in the desert, the annual pilgrimage to the Temple
- Fulfillment in Christ: return from Egypt, Palm Sunday entry, Carrying of the Cross
- every procession is at once joyous and sorrowful, painful and glorious

### *Consider...*

- “The priest comes forth from the holy chamber, clad in sacred vestments, and approaches the altar, to show that Christ, the hope of the nations, came forth from his secret dwelling in the heavens, clothed in the holy flesh drawn from the spotless virgin, and entered into this world.” (Durandus)
- It is the Mystical Body drawing nearer to Heaven, the Promised Land
- Cross and Candles lead like the pillar of fire in the desert
- The Incense is like the *shekinah* glory cloud of the Presence that covered the people

## **Asperges**

- Holy Water is always used as preparation for Mass, whether in stoop or in the aspersorium
- Old Testament Type: Covenants & Purifications
- Covenant was made by agreeing on the terms, making the vows, and sealing it with a sacrifice
- When accepting or renewing their commitment to God, blood would be sprinkled upon them
- Blood from the Temple also used to purify and heal lepers and others who were ill

### *Consider...*

- Each baptized soul was given the terms, made vows in the rite, and is washed with water
- Psalm 51 (50) - Holy Water cleanses the soul of venial sin and disposes it to grace
- Salt is used to cast away evil, purify the soul, and preserve from corruption
- The Rite is the same as that of the Blessing of a Home
- Our world-wearied souls rejoice to be welcomed and find the hospitality of a bit of water

## **Prayers at the Foot of the Altar**

- A simple look to the Cross and Reverence before the All Holy One
- Organic Development - Prostration (8th), Confiteor (9th), Judica me (10th), Versicles (12th)
- Introibo...Judica me...Adjutorium... Confiteor...Miseratur... Indulgentiam... Deus... Oremus

### *Consider...*

- “No one comes to that heavenly altar except him who comes to this altar with care.” (Augustine of Hippo)
- The priest feels rather like a fool having to look good when he knows he is but a sinner, he is a man in company far too rich for himself (Ronald Knox)
- Introibo ad altare Dei; the entire focus is the altar because it is a sacrifice we offer here
- Psalm 42 is a synopsis of the three stages of the Interior Life - purgative, illuminative, unitive
- Psalm 42 is presumed to be a Psalm of David when fleeing Absalom ... longing for God's Presence
- Confiteor because we harm each other by our shortcomings & sins
- Adjutorium rejoices because there's help from Heaven - we rise as a symbol of resurrection & freedom
- Oremus and the ascending of the steps, not alone, but carrying the people in his heart

**And now we are ready to begin the Mass!**