

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024 // Written by Scott Hayes**

From time to time, Daniel Stipe and I have been alternating roles periodically. He conducts the choir, and I take his place at the organ. It's a valuable opportunity for the choirs to experience different directing styles, and it motivates me to keep up my chops at the organ. This past Sunday was one of the days, and since the offertory anthem was not accompanied, I sang with the choir.

It's not uncommon for singers to experience hiccups during rehearsals. After all, we're engaging in unusual breathing techniques, and unexpected occurrences can arise. Such was the case for me on Sunday: I got the hiccups!

You might have noticed that this past Sunday served as a bit of a "hiccup" in our Lenten journey. Historically recognized as "Laetare Sunday," the Fourth Sunday in Lent offers a brief respite from the Lenten fast, marking the halfway point of the season. The name originates from the appointed lections for the Sunday during the Middle Ages, deriving from a passage in Isaiah that begins with "Rejoice Jerusalem." "Rejoice" translates to "Laetare." Additionally, our friends in the United Kingdom commemorate the day as "Mothering Sunday" – a day now roughly equivalent to Mother's Day here in the United States.

How often in life do we encounter such "hiccups," where things momentarily lighten up before potentially worsening? Like the calm within a storm's eye, these interludes offer much-needed solace before returning to the tempest. Jesus' story mirrors our own – even in the darkest hour, we find solace in the anticipation of better times ahead, as we turn our gaze towards the resurrection.

Storms pass. Better weather lies ahead.