

Chapter 4

The Church Rises to Prominence

[*The Duomo of Milan and Organ*]

In this exercise, the students will listen to an excerpt of Mozart's Mass in C Major as a class. This video is five and a half minutes long, and it is a modern performance of the Sanctus that Mozart wrote to be sung during Mass. The Sanctus is the part of the Mass that we know as the "Holy, holy, holy" – the last thing that is sung before the start of the Eucharistic Prayer. First, share this background information in your own words:

After the Protestant Reformation began in the year 1517, many Catholic leaders and thinkers were concerned that Catholics would be led astray by Protestant ideas. One of the methods they conceived of to prevent this was by building new churches and creating a new style of art called "Baroque" art.

Baroque art was meant to emphasize emotional intensity, movement, and the majesty of the Catholic faith. This was true not just of the visual arts, sculpture, and architecture, but also of music. The goal was to create a style of music that would call out to people's hearts through its beauty—and so convince them of the truth of the Catholic faith. In other words, if something was this beautiful, it must represent something that was also true, because God is both Truth and Beauty itself.

Play the video of 4 W A Mozart Sanctus Benedictus Coronation Mass in C major K317 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A-5eWohPkk>). First share that the video was made at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during the celebration of Mass. During the video, have the students doodle or free draw while listening to the music on a piece of scrap paper. After the video is complete, the teacher will facilitate a discussion with the students about what their experience was like. The following questions will help guide the discussion.

1. How did you feel while listening to the music?
2. What kind of emotions were present?
3. How does it affect your view of God?
4. What did you doodle or free draw during the video?
5. What meaning does your drawing have?