

PSALMS AS THE BASIS OF THE PROPER OF THE LITURGY

Examples

Parallelismus Membrorum

The poetry of the Psalms consists in neither rhyme nor meter, but in *parallelismus membrorum*. The distinct lines of a psalm consist of two (occasionally three) complete clauses, which are complementary, whether a poetic restatement, a statement of cause and effect, a quotation, or many other ways of complementarity. So, for instance

Justus ut palma florebit: The just shall flourish like a palm tree;
sicut cedrus Libani multiplicabitur. like a cedar of Lebanon he shall be multiplied.
Psalm 91 (92):13

Psalm 109 with Antiphons

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: Sede a dextris
meis. [Sundays & most saints' days]

Donec ponam inimicos tuos, scabellum
pedum tuorum.

Virgam virtutis tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion:
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuæ in
splendoribus sanctorum: ex utero *ante
luciferum genui te. [Christmas, 1st Vesp.]

Juravit Dominus, et non pænitebit eum: Tu es
sacerdos in æternum / secundum ordinem
Melchisedech. [Apostles]

Dominus a dextris tuis, confregit in die iræ
suæ reges.

Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas:
conquassabit capita in terra multorum.

De torrente in via bibet: propterea exaltabit
caput.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*Ante luciferum genitus, et ante saecula,
Dominus savor noster hodie mundo apparuit.
[Epiphany]

Dum esset rex in accúbitu suo, nardus
mea dedit odórem suavitátis. [Vespers of
the Blessed Virgin]

The Lord said to my Lord: sit thou at my right
hand.

Until I make thy enemies a footstool for thy
feet.

The Lord will send forth the sceptre of thy power
out of Sion: rule thou in the midst of thy enemies.

With thee is the principality in the day of thy
strength: in the brightness of the saints: from the
womb before the day star I begot thee.

The Lord hath sworn, and he will not repent:
Thou art a priest for ever according to the order of
Melchisedech.

The Lord at thy right hand hath broken kings in
the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among nations, he shall fill ruins:
he shall crush the heads in the land of many.

He shall drink of the torrent in the way:
therefore shall he lift up the head.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Begotten before the day-star and before the
ages, the Lord our Savior, today appeared before
the world. *Cf. Ps. 109: 4*

While the king was at his repose, my
spikenard sent forth the odor thereof. *Song of
Songs, 1:11*

Stetit Angelus juxta aram templi, habens thuribulum aureum in manu sua. [St. Michael the Archangel]

An Angel stood near the altar of the temple, holding a golden censer in his hand. *Rev. 8:3*

Ecce Dominus veniet, et omnes sancti ejus cum eo: et erit in die illa lux magna, alleluia. [First Sunday of Advent]

Behold the Lord shall come, and all his Saints with him: and there shall be on that day a great light, alleluia. *Zach. 14: 5-6*

Angelus autem Domini descendit de caelo, et accedens revolvit lapidem, et sedebat super eum, alleluia, alleluia. [Easter]

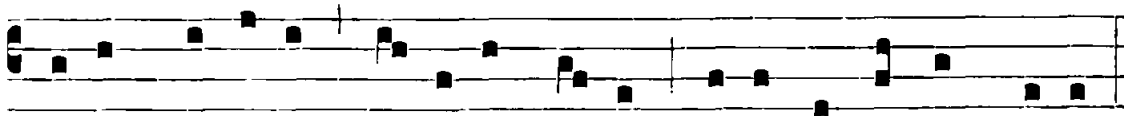
And the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven; and going up, rolled back the stone and sat upon it, alleluia, alleluia. *Matth. 28:2*

Domum tuam Domine decet sanctitudo, in longitudinem dierum. [Dedication of a Church]

Thy house, O Lord, denotes holiness unto all ages. *Ps. 92: 7.*

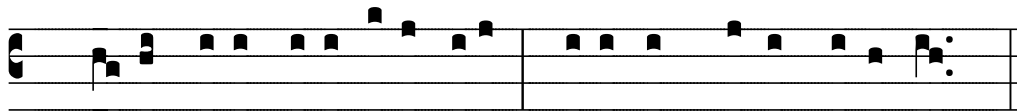
Ipse praeibit ante illum in spiritu et virtute Eliae, parare Domino plebem perfectam. [St. John the Baptist]

He shall go before him in the spirit and strength of Elias to prepare a perfect people for the Lord. *Cf. Luke 1:17*



Di-xit Dómi-nus Dómi-no me- o: Se-de a dextris me- is.

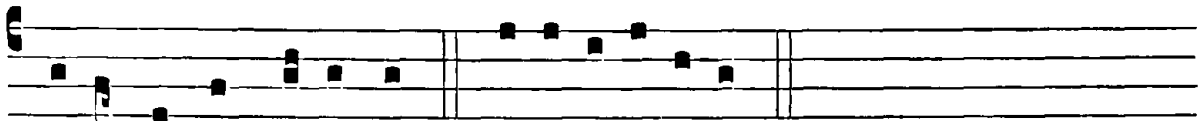
G-B-D----- F-A-C----- G



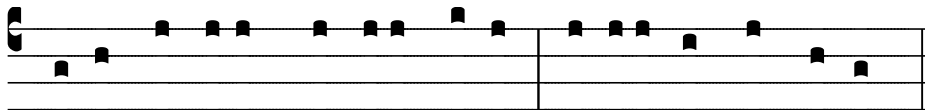
2. Donec ponam inimicos tuos, scabellum pedum tu-o-rum.



JURA-VIT Dómi-nus,* et non pae-ni-té-bit e- um: Tu es



sa-cérδος in ae-térnum. E u o u a e. *Ps. Dixit Dóminus. [1].*



Dixit Dominus Domino me-o: Sede a dextris me- is.

Table of the Modes¹

Names	Final	Reciting note	Psalm intonation	Typical intonation figures
Mode 1. Dorian Protus authenticus				
Mode 2. Hypodorian Protus plagalis				
Mode 3. Phrygian Deuterus authenticus				
Mode 4. Hypophrygian Deuterus plagalis				
Mode 5. Lydian Tritus authenticus				
Mode 6. Hypolydian Tritus plagalis				
Mode 7. Mixolydian Tetrardus authenticus				
Mode 8. Hypomixolydian Tetrardus plagalis				

Chains of thirds: ○ = strong notes ● = intermediate notes ●● = weaker & weakest notes



¹ Table drawn from William P. Mahrt, "Gamut, Solmization, & Modes," in *A Performer's Guide to Medieval Music*, ed. Ross W. Duffin (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000), p. 487.

Communion Antiphons of Lent²

Weekday	Psalm text	Psalm	Thursdays	Source	Gospel comm.	Source
Ash Wed.	Qui meditabitur	1:2-3				
Thursday			Acceptabis ³	Ps. 50:21		
Friday	Servite	2:11-12				
Monday 1	Voce mea	3:5-7				
Tuesday 1	Cum invocarem	4:2				
Wednesday 1	Intellige	5:2-4				
Thursday 1			Panis quem ⁴	John 6:52		
Friday 1	Erubescant	6:11				
Saturday	Domine Deus	7:2				
Monday 2	Domine Deus	8:2				
Tuesday 2	Narrabo omnia	9:2-3				
Wednesday 2	Justus Dominus	10:7				
Thursday 2			Qui manducat ⁵	John 6: 5-7		
Friday 2	Tu Domine	11:8				
Saturday		[Ps. 12}			Oportet te	Luke 15:12
Monday 3	Quis daabit	13:7				
Tuesday 3	Dominus qui	14:1-2				
Wednesday 3	Notas mihi	15:11				
Thursday 3			Tu mandasti ⁶	Ps. 118:4-5		
Friday 3		[Ps. 16]			Qui biberit	John 4: 13-14
Saturday 3		[Ps. 17]			Nemo te	John 8: 10-11
Monday 4	Ab occultis	18:13-14				
Tuesday 4	Laetabimur	19:6				
Wednesday 4		[Ps. 20]			Lutum fecit	John 9:6-38
Thursday 4			Domine memorabor ⁷	70:16-18		
Friday 4		[Ps. 21]			Videns Dominus	John 11:33-44
Saturday 4	Dominus regit	22:1-2				
Monday 5	Dominus virtutum	23:10				
Tuesday 5	Redime me	24:22				
Wednesday 5	Lavabo	25:6-7				
Thursday 5			Memento ⁸	Ps. 118:49-50		
Friday 5	Ne tradideris	26:12				

² Table adapted from James McKinnon, *The Advent Project: The Later-Seventh-Century Creation of the Roman Mass Proper* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000), Table 34, pp. 332-3.

³ Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

⁴ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

⁵ Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

⁶ Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

⁷ Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

⁸ Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Mass Propers for the Sundays after Pentecost⁹

Sunday after Pentecost	Introit	Gradual		Alleluia		Offertory	Communion
		Blandin I	Blandin II	St. Victor	Tridentine		
I	12	40	6	7	5	5	9
II	17	119	8	17	9	6	12
III	24	54	9	20	7	9	16
IV	26:1, 2	78	9	30	9	12	17
V	26:7, 9	83	18	58	20	15	26:4
VI	27	89	26	64	30	16	26:6
VII	46	33	33	77	46	Dan 3	30
VIII	47	43	43	80	47	17	33
IX	53	70	44	87	58	18	Mt. 6
X	54	8	71	89	64	24	50
XI	67	16	82	94:1	80	29	Prov. 3
XII	69	27	83	94:3	87	Ex. 32	103
XIII	73	33	89	96	89	30	Wis. 16
XIV	83	73	101:2	104	94:1	33	John 6:52
XV	85:1, 2-3	91	101:16	107	94:3	39:2, 3, 4	John 6:57
XVI	85:3, 5	117	106	110	97	39:14-15	70
XVII	118	101:16	117	113	101:2	Dan. 9	75
XVIII	Eccli. 36	112	121	116	101:16	Ex. 24	95
XIX	cf. Ps. 36	121	140	117	104	137	118:4-5
XX	Dan. 3	144	142	129	107	136	118:49-50
XXI	Esth. 13	89	89	145	113:1	Job	118:81-86
XXII	129	132	132	146	113:19	Esth. 14:	Luke 15
XXIII	Jer. 29:	101:16	101	147	129	129	Mark. 11

⁹ Table drawn from William Mahrt, "The Gregorian Harvest Communion," in *Analizar, interpretar, hacer música: de las Cantigas de Santa María a la organología: escritos in memoriam Gerardo V. Huseby*, ed. Melanie Plesch (Buenos Aires: Gourmet Musical Editions, 2013), p. 273.

Examples of Parallelismus membrorum

1. Communion Ps. 16: 6 (OF: 9 Temp. Ord.; EF: 22 Post. Pent.)

Ego clamavi, quoniam, exaudisti me, Deus: I have cried, for thou, O God hast heard me:
 inclina aurem tuam, et exaudi verba mea. O incline thy ear unto me, and hear my words.

Comm.
8.

E - go clamá- vi, *quó-ni- am exaudí- sti me

De- us : inclí- na aurem tu- am, et exáu- di

ver- ba me- a.

2. Offertory based upon Psalm 39: 2–4 (mainly Roman Psalter) Portions of the text used by the offertory are underlined. (EF: 15th Sunday after Pentecost; OF: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1. Exspectans expectavi Dominum, et respexit me.

With expectation, I have waited for the Lord, and he was attentive to me.

2. Et exaudivit deprecationem meam, et eduxit me de lacu miseræ et de luto fæcis.

And he heard my prayers and brought me out of the pit of misery and the mire of dregs.

3. Et statuit super petram pedes meos, et direxit gressus meos.

And he set my feet upon a rock, and directed my steps.

4. Et immisit in os meum canticum novum, hymnum Deo nostro. Videbunt multi, et timebunt, et sperabunt in

And he put a new canticum into my mouth a hymn to our God. Many shall see, and shall fear: and they shall hope in

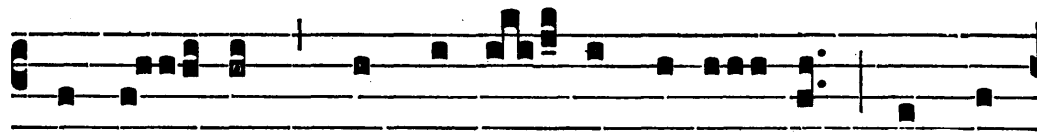
Domino.

the Lord.

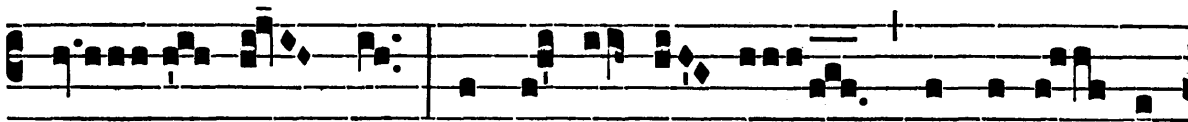
Offert.

5.

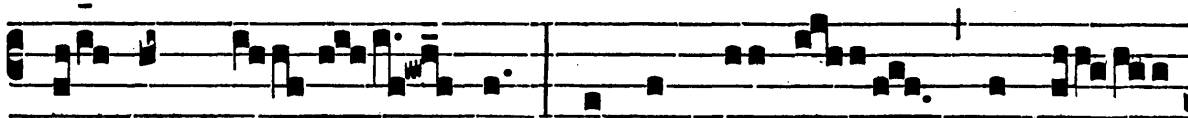
E



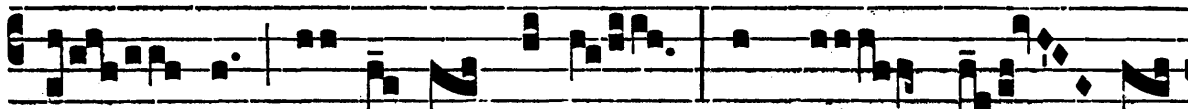
Xspé- ctans * exspectá- vi Dómi- num, et re-



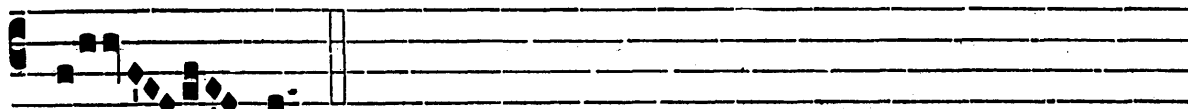
spé- xit me : et ex-au-dí- vit depre-ca- ti-



ó- nem me- am, et immí- sit in os



me- um cán-ti- cum novum, hymnum De- o



no- stro.

3. Gradual based upon Psalm 79: 2-3. Portions of the text set in the respond are underlined; those in the psalm verse are in italics. (Third Sunday of Advent)

2. *Qui regis Israël, intende; qui deducis velut ovem Joseph.* Qui sedes super cherubim, manifestare

3. coram Ephraim, Benjamin, et Manasse. Excita potentiam tuam, et veni, ut salvos

Give ear, O thou that rulest Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Thou that sittest upon the cherubim, shine forth.

before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses. Stir up thy might and come to

facias nos.

save us.

Grad.
7.

Q

UI se-des, Dómi- ne, * su- per Ché- ru-

bim, éxi- ta pot-éti- am tu- am, et

ve- ni.

∩. Qui re-

gis Isra- el, inténde :

qui de- dú-

cis vel- ut o- vem * Jo- seph.

