

*Singing the Prayers and Readings
at Mass*

Edward Schaefer

Priory Press
Spokane, WA

2003

Singing the Prayers and Readings at Mass

© 2003 Priory Press

© 2003 Edward Schaefer

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 1973, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, second typical edition © 1998, 1997, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Published with the approval of the Committee on the Liturgy, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Priory Press
Spokane, WA 99203

ISBN 0-9718993-1-2

Introduction

Singing the Prayers and Readings at Mass is a companion to *Missa Cantata*¹ and *Lectiones Cantatae*,² a notated missal and lectionary, respectively. *Missa Cantata* and *Lectiones Cantatae* provide full notation for the Mass and for the readings at Mass on Sundays and feasts. The notated texts are in English and based on Gregorian formulas. The present text offers the principles on which the notation in *Missa Cantata* and *Lectiones Cantatae* is based. A few examples are included to demonstrate the principles.

Like its companion works, *Singing the Prayers and Readings at Mass* is offered to facilitate the celebration of a fully sung Mass.

Contents




Solemn Tone for the Prayers of the Mass	
Guidelines	3
Examples	5
Tone for the Old Testament Reading	
Guidelines	11
Example.	13
Tone for the New Testament Reading	
Guidelines	17
Examples	19
Tone for the Gospel	
Guidelines	27
Examples	29

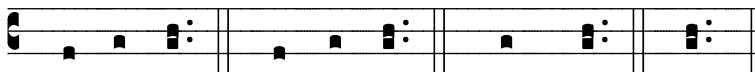
¹ (Spokane, WA: Priory Press, 2001). Priory Press website: www.priorypress.com; email: priorypress@edwardschaefer.net; phone: (509) 624-1560.

² (Spokane, WA: Priory Press, in preparation).

Tone for the Old Testament Reading

Guidelines

-  The flex is made toward the middle of each sentence; it is omitted if the sentence is very short. In the longer sentences, the flex may be repeated several times if the sense allows this being done. The metrum does not occur in this tone. (See example: *Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, First Reading*, p. 13.)
-  The flex is made by lowering the voice on the last syllable only, even if the penultimate syllable be not accented. At the full stop, the voice is lowered on the penultimate syllable, if this be short. (See example: *Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, First Reading*, p. 13.)
-  The interrogation has only one form. It is the same for the Old Testament reading, the New Testament reading, and the Gospel. (See example: *Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, Gospel*, p. 32.) Very short sentences are sung as follows:



Why ask me? Who are you? Where, Lord? Why?

However, the interrogatory formula must never be used at the end. If an interrogation occurs at the end of the text, the ordinary cadential formula must be used.

Adapted for English usage from rules given in The Liber Usualis, (Tournai: Desclée & Co., 1934), pp. 103-104, and in Gradual Romanum (Tournai: Desclée & Co., 1974), pp. 803-804.

Tone for the Old Testament Reading

Example

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B**

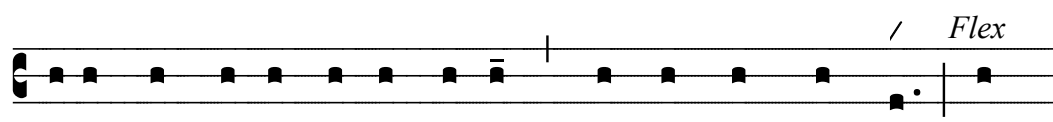
First Reading

A



reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

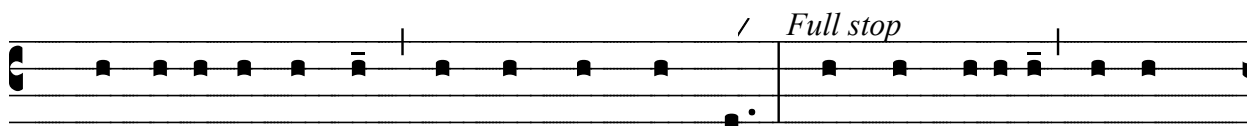
M



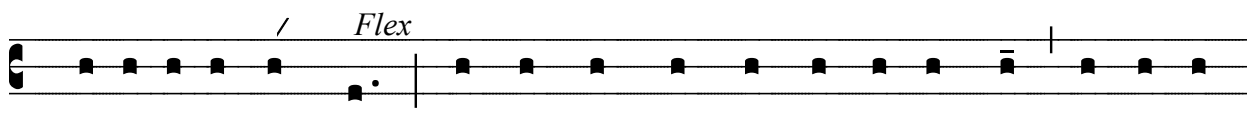
oses spoke to the people, saying: “Fear the Lord, your God, and



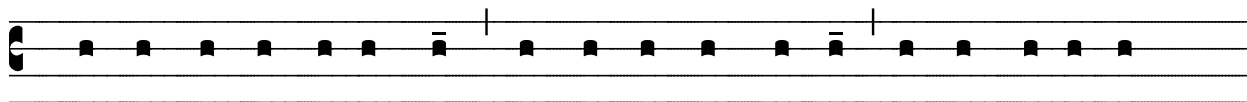
keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments



which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be



careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping



with the promise of the Lord, the God of your fathers, to give you a land

