

Gregorian Chants

*Transcribed and Edited by
Anthony Doherty*

*Series I: Communion Verses
Volume 2: Lent and Eastertime*

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The communion verse is a good accessible entry into Gregorian chant. These pieces are relatively short, but still provide the essentials of the musical principles and styles of the eight chant modes. They can be learned quickly and have a variety of uses. They may be sung as an introduction to the Communion rite, to be followed by other hymns, or, as in the ancient tradition, having chanted psalm verses between repetitions of the chant.

The transcriptions are based in general on the accentualist principles of Dom Joseph Pothier O.S.B., that the natural word accents of the texts and the grouping of the notes in the neumes of the original chant notation reveal the rhythmic structures of the melody. The neum groupings are shown by eighth-note beaming. Barlines are used not to imply a stronger accent on the first note of the measure, but to add the element of visual organization that present-day musicians are used to as an aid to sight-reading and efficient rehearsals. A moderate and flexible tempo in the range of M.M. 72 to 80 quarter-notes will allow the melody to flow without bogging down in a one-note-at-a-time dirge. Key signatures are meant to keep each piece in a easily singable range. The chants may be transposed to fit each soloist's or group's needs.

The transcriptions are of the chants as printed in the *Graduale Romanum*. Two note-forms in the chant notation required special treatment. The *quilisma* is a square note with jagged top and bottom edges whose historical meaning is uncertain. It occurs as the second note in a neum ascending stepwise for three or more notes. One common interpretation has been to lengthen the first note of the group but do nothing special to the *quilisma* itself, but it seems odd to have a special sign that tells what to do to the previous note. In this edition the first two notes of a *quilisma* neum are transcribed as a dotted eighth and sixteenth, which needn't be interpreted rigidly.

Many chants include a series of two or three successive notes on the same pitch. They have generally been performed as a single note doubled or tripled in length. In the old manuscripts, however, these two or three notes were a special shape with a downward-curling tail, rather like a large apostrophe. That shape was not used in the *Graduale Romanum* or the *Liber Usualis*, but was used in the *Antiphonale Monasticum* and the Ambrosian Chant books. In the groups of two or three notes they indicate a vocal ornament called the tremolo or shake, a vocal push or stress for each of the notes but with no break in the sustained pitch. The transcription is staccato dots over each note-head plus a slur over the whole group.

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Series I: Communion Verses

Ash Wednesday

Mode 3

Qui me - di - ta - bi - tur in le - ge.

Do - mi - ni di - e ac - no - cte.

da - bit fru - ctum su -

um in tem - po - re su - o.

One who meditates on the Law of the Lord day and night
will bear his fruit in his own time.

First Sunday of Lent

Mode 3

Sca - pu - lis su - is ob - um - bra - bit

ti - bi, et sub pen - nis e - jus spe -

ra - bis. scu - to cir - cum - da -

bit te ve - ri - tas e - jus.

With his wings He will overshadow you, and under His pinions
you will find hope: His truth will surround you as a shield.

Second Sunday of Lent

Mode 5

In - tel - li - ge - cla - mo - rem me - um: _____
 4 in - ten - de vo - ci o - ra - ti - o - nis _____
 7 me - ae, Rex me - us et De - us me - us: _____
 11 quo - ni - am ad te o - ra - bo, _____
 13 Do - mi - ne. _____

Consider my cry, heed the words of my prayer, O
 my King and my God, for I pray to You, O Lord.

Third Sunday of Lent

Mode 1

16 Pas - ser in - ve - nit si - bi do - mum et tur - tur ni - dum _____
 19 u - bi re - po - nat pul - los su - os; al - ta - ri - a tu - a, _____
 22 Do - mi - ne vir - tu - tem, Rex me - us _____
 25 et De - us me - us: be - a - ti qui _____
 28 ha - bi - tant in do - mo tu - a, _____
 31 in sae - cu - lum sae - cu - li lau - da - bunt Te. _____

The sparrow finds a home for itself, and the dove a nest where she keeps her chicks: your altars, Lord of virtues, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house: through all ages they will praise You.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mode 4

Je - ru - sa - lem, quae ae - di - fi - ca - tur
 ut ci - vi - tas. cu - jus par - ti - ci - pa - ti - o
 e - jus in id - ip - sum: il - luc e - nim a - scen - de - runt
 tri - bus, tri - bus Do - mi - ni, ad con - fi - ten - dum
 no - mi - ni tu - o, Do - mi - ne.

Jerusalem, built as a city, all complete in itself: for it is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to acknowledge Your Name, O Lord.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mode 8

Hoc cor - pus quod pro vo - bis tra - de - tur; hic ca - lix
 no - vi tes - ta - men - ti est in me - o san - gui - ne,
 di - cit Do - mi - nus. Hoc fa - ci - te quo - ti - es - cum - que
 su - mi - tis, in me - am com - me - mo - ra - ti - o - nem.

This is my body, which was handed over for you; this is the cup of the new testament in my blood, says the Lord. Do this, whenever you partake of it, in memory of me.

Palm Sunday

Mode 8

Pa - ter, si non pot-est hic ca - lix trans-i - re

ni - si bi-bam il - lum, fi - at vo - lun - tas tu - a.

Father, if this cup cannot go away unless I drink it, Your will be done.

Holy Thursday

Mode 2

Do-mi - nus Je - sus, post-quam ce - na - vit

cum dis - ci - pu - lis su - is, la - vit pe - des e - o - rum,

et a - it il - lis: Sci - tis quid fe - ce - rim

vo - bis, e - go Do-mi - nus et Ma - gi - ter?

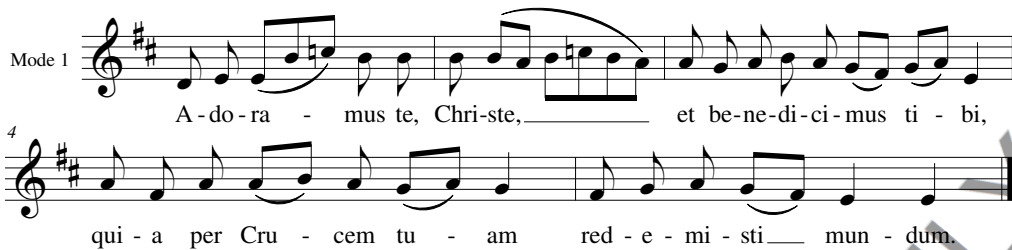
Ex-em-plum de - di vo - bis, ut et vos i - ta fa-ci - a - tis.

The Lord Jesus, after he dined with the disciples, washed their feet and said to them: Do you know what I am doing for you, I, your Lord and Teacher? I have given you an example, so that you also may do the same.

These verses were sung in succession as the reserved Sacrament was brought from the Altar of Repose to the Main Altar

Good Friday 1

Mode 1

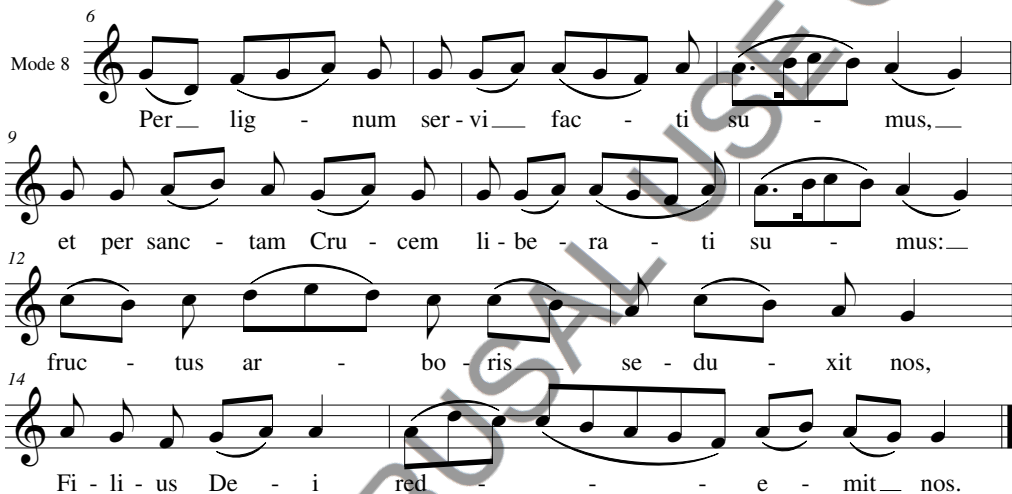


A - do - ra - mus te, Chri - ste, et be - ne - di - ci - mus ti - bi,
 4 qui - a per Cru - cem tu - am red - e - mi - sti mun - dum.

We adore you, O Christ, and bless you, for by your Cross you redeemed the world

Good Friday 2

Mode 8



6 Per lig - num ser - vi fac - ti su - mus,
 9 et per sanc - tam Cru - cem li - be - ra - ti su - mus:
 12 fruc - tus ar - bo - ris se - du - xit nos,
 14 Fi - li - us De - i red - e - mit nos.

By wood we became slaves, and by the holy Cross we were set free.
 The fruit of a tree seduced us, the Son of God redeemed us.

Good Friday 3

Mode 7



16 Sal - va - tor mun - di, sal - va nos: qui per Cru - cem et San - gui - nem
 18 red - e - mis - ti nos, au - xi - li - a - re no - bis, te de - pre - ca - mur, De - us no - ster.

Savior of the world, save us, for by your Cross and Blood you redeemed us. Come to our aid, we beg you, O our God.

Easter Sunday

Mode 6

Pas-cha no-strum im-mo-la-tus est

Chris-tus, al-le-lu-ia: i-ta-que

e-pu-le-mur in a-zy-mis sin-cer-i-ta-tis

et ve-ri-ta-tis, al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Christ, our Pascha, has been sacrificed, alleluia; and so let us feast on the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Second Sunday of Easter (Thomas Sunday)

Mode 6

Mit-te ma-num tu-am, et cog-no-sce lo-ca cla-vo-rum,

al-le-lu-ia: et no-li es-se in-cre-du-lus,

sed fi-de-lis, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Put out your hand and discover the places of the nails, alleluia: and do not be incredulous, but faithful

Third Sunday of Easter

Mode 2

E - go - - - - - sum pas - tor - - - - - bo - - - - - nus, - - -

al - le - lu - - ia: et cog - no - sco - - - - - o - ves me - - - as,

et cog - no - scunt me me - ae, - - - al - le - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.

I am the good shepherd, alleluia, and I know
my sheep and mine know me, alleluia, alleluia.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mode 8

Mo - di - cum, et non vi - de - bi - tis - - - - - me,

al - le - lu - - ia: i - te - rum mo - di - - - cum - - -

et vi - de - bi - tis - - - - - me, qui - - - a - - -

va - do ad Pa - trem, - - - al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.

A short while, and you will not be seeing me, alleluia: again a short while,
and you will see me, because I am going to the Father, alleluia, alleluia.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mode 8

Dum ve - ne - rit Pa-ra - cli - tus
 Spi - ri - tus ver - ri - ta - tis,
 il - le ar - gu-et mun - dum de pec-ca - to,
 et de ju - sti - ti - a, et de ju - di - ci - o,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

When the Paraclete, the Spirit of truth comes, he will testify to the world about sin, and about justice, and about judgment, alleluia, alleluia.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mode 2

Can-ta - te Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia:
 can-ta - te Do - mi - no, be - ne - di - ci - te no - men e - jus:
 be - ne - nun - ti - a - te
 de di - e in di - em sa - lu - ta - re e - jus,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sing to the Lord, alleluia: sing to the Lord, bless His name.
 Proclaim well His salvation day in and day out, alleluia, alleluia

Ascension Day

Mode 1

Psal - li - te Do - mi - no,
 qui a - scen - dit su - per cas - los
 cae - lo - rum ad O - ri - en - tem,
 al - le - lu - ia

Sing to the Lord, who ascends over the heavens of heavens to the East, alleluia

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mode 4

Pa - ter, cum es sem cum e - is,
 e - go ser - va - bam e - os quos de - di - sti mi - hi,
 al - le lu - ia: nunc au - tem
 ad te ve - ni - o: non ro - go ut tol - las e - os
 de mun - do, sed ut ser - ves e - os a ma - lo,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Father, when I was with those that you gave me, I protected them, alleluia. But now I am coming to you. I do not ask that you take them up from the world, but that you protect them from evil, alleluia, alleluia.

Pentecost

Mode 7

Fac-tus est re-pen-te de cae-lo so - nus ad-ve-ni - en - tis
spi - ri - tus ve - he - men - tis, u - bi e - rant
se - den - tes, al - le - lu - ia: et re - ple - ti sunt om - nes
Spi - ri - tu Sanc - to, lo - quen - tes mag - na - li - a
De - i, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Suddenly there came from the sky the sound of a strong wind where they were sitting, alleluia, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaiming the wondrous works of God.

Trinity Sunday

Mode 4

Be - ne - di - ca - mus De - um
cae - li, et co - ram om - ni - bus vi - ven - ti - bus
con - fi - te - bi - mur e - i
qui - a fe - cit no - bis cum
mi - se - ri - cor - di - am su - am,

We bless the God of Heaven, and in the presence of all the living we confess Him, for He has brought forth his compassion for us.

Corpus Christi

Mode 7

Quo - ti - es - cum - que man - du - ca - bi - tis
3 pa - nem hunc, et ca - li - cem - bi - be - tis,
6 mor - tem Do - mi - ni an - nun - ti - a - bi - tis, do - nec
9 ve - ni - at: i - ta - que qui - cum que
11 man - du - ca - ve - rit pa - nem vel bi - be - rit ca - li - cem Do - mi - ni
13 in - di - gne re - us e - rit cor - po - ris
15 et san - gui - nis Do - mi - ni, al - le - lu - ia.

Every time that you eat this bread and drink this cup, you will proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes. And so if anyone should eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily, he will be guilty of the Body and Blood of the Lord, alleluia.