

PREPARING TO CHANT A GOSPEL

1. Read through the gospel text first. See how you want to break up the text. Some lines are easily broken up, while it may be a bit more challenging to break others up, especially if the Gospel reading is a longer one. Once you have the text broken up, then you can apply a chant tone (one, two or three member phrase) to the text.

2. I use underlines and bolds to help me when it's time to go up or down. Underlines indicate that one should go up in the chant phrase, and **bold** indicates that one should go down in the phrase. A pound sign (#) indicates that a short pause should be taken. You can sing the chant tone just as if you were singing an opening prayer or a Eucharistic prayer. Pause when it is natural to do so.

3. It's important that you become familiar with the various chant tones for one, two and three-member phrases. The first couple of times you do this, you can draw out the lines and the notes of the phrase you'd like to use, and then put the words underneath the notes (like Fr. Wojcik does in his handout). This will help ensure that you know when to change notes. Eventually, you'll be so great that you can just do the underlines and bolds, or whatever notation would work best for you!

EXAMPLE:

P. 1624 OF THE DAILY ROMAN MISSAL
TUESDAY OF THE 30TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
LECTIONARY CYCLE, WEEK II
LUKE 13:18-21

This is how I broke the text up in this particular gospel:

Jesus **said**, “What is the Kingdom of God like? To what can I **compare** it?

Two member phrase.

It is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in the **garden**. When it was fully grown, (#) it became a large bush (#) and the birds of the sky dwelt in **its** branches.

Three member phrase.

Again he said, “To what shall I compare the Kingdom **of** God?

One member phrase.

It is like yeast that a woman **took** (#) and mixed in with three measures of wheat flour (#) until the whole batch of dough **was** leavened.

Three member phrase.
