How to sing the Second Reading at Mass in English & Latin

C. Epistle Tones

1. Recent Tone. The more commonly heard epistle tone is a recto tono formula. Its only inflection is the interrogation, identical to the interrogation of the prophecy tone. Pauses and full stops are made by a simple mora vocis. Some books indicate mora vocis for each of the last two syllables at the conclusion; but we prefer to lengthen only the last syllable. Should the epistle conclude with a question the interrogation formula cannot be used, and the usual recto tono prevails. Care must be taken not to fall into a speech rhythm, the normal rules for locating the ictus in syllabic chant being applicable even in recto tono passages.

2. Ancient ad Libitum Tone. There is also an ancient tone for the epistle lesson, available ad libitum. It is often erroneously termed a solemn tone, and is heard not infrequently on greater feasts. It is not a solemn tone, and may be used freely at any time. It is ancient, and often seems more suitable for the ember days. The tone has a metrum, a full stop, and a distinct formula for the conclusion. The metrum consists of two feet with one preparatory syllable; the full stop of two feet; and neither admits any special treatment for monosyllables, Hebrew words, anapaests and false dactyls. The conclusion involves two feet, but with a separation between for the final phrase, which has its tenor on Ti instead of Do. The conclusion does admit special treatment for monosyllables and the other usual situations of final accent. The interrogation formula, which may not be used as a conclusion, is the same as that in the prophecy tone.

The pattern of the ancient epistle tone is as follows:

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In the titles, the metrum occurs only with the Pauline Epistles and with the Apocalypse, as indicated above.

Full Stop

Metrum

Léctio Actuum A| pó-stō| ló-rüm. In di-| é-büs| il-iis: Petrus....

Titles other than the Pauline Epistles and the Apocalypse have only the full stop, as indicated in the above example for the Acts of the Apostles. The phrase in diebus illis, standing at the beginning of a passage, always takes the metrum, as indicated above.

Full Stop

Metrum

Léctio Epístolae beáti Paúlí A| pó-stōli |

Full Stop

ut si-tis | nó-vā cōn|spér-sī-o, si-cut | é-stis | á-zy-mī.

Full Stop

Éte-nim Pascha nostrum immo| lá-tūs est | Chrístūs.

Metrum

Ítaque e- pu-lé-mur: non in fer|mén-tō | vé-tē-ri,

ne-que in fer-mén-to ma-li-ti-ae, et ne|quí-ti-āe: ||

Conclusion

sed in á-zy-mis sin-ce-ri-tá-tis, et ve-ri|tá-tis.
In employing this formula in English, it will be found that, just as in Latin, the metrum will have a place in the titles of the Pauline Epistles and in the Apocalypse, whereas the title of the Acts of the Apostles and of other readings will have only the full stop. The phrase *in those days*, translating *in diebus illis*, is not long enough for the normal metrum formula; but by analogy with what is done for the full stop in the shorter titles in the Latin usage of this tone, we will make certain of the metrum notes into a neum in order to retain the complete melodic formula.

In English usage, the formula will be as follows:

**Metrum**

\[\text{A Reading from the E-pistle of blessed Paul the Apostle} \]

**Full Stop**

\[\text{to the Romanists. to the Corinthians. to the Galatians. to the Ephesians.} \]

**Metrum**

\[\text{to the Thessalonians. to Timothy. to Titus.} \]

**Full Stop**

\[\text{of blessed John the Apostle.} \]

**Full Stop**

\[\text{A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. In those days: Peter...} \]
The full pattern of the tone will be as follows:

A Reading from the Epistle of blessed Paul the Apostle

|tó the Cô-rín-thi-ans. Breth-ren: Clean out the old yeast, that you may

bec fresh dough, as you really are unleavened. For indeed, our

pass-over, Christ, has been sacrificed. Let us celebrate the feast,

then, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness,

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

or: sincerity and truth.

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Examples of the metrum: formula of two feet with one preparatory syllable, no disparate treatment available for the final accent situations:

| pro-pi-or | est | nó | sfra | sá | lús |
| con-fi-te-bí-túr | Dó-mí-ño |
| per-se-quenti-tí-bús | vós |
| an-gu-stí-a-vé-runt |
| Ma-di-án | ēt | É-pha |
| Do-mi-nus | Dé-ùs | ló | cú | tús | ēst |
| vi-si-ble and things | in- | vi- | sī-ble |
| through all | gé | né | rá- | tiōns |
| re-ceiv-ed | our | Lórđ | sō | wālk | in | hīm |
| po-si-tion | of | hón- | ōr | ā-móng | yōu |
| hope | in | ōur | Lórđ | Jé-sūs | Chříst |

Examples of the full stop: formula of two feet, with no disparate treatment available for the rhythmic situations capable of final accent:

| ap-pró | pín-qua | bít. |
| di-li-gén | tí-bús | sé. |
| re-sur-xít | à-mór-tú-ís. |
| sú-pér-tē-ór-tā-est. |
| in ōur | Lórđ | Jé-sūs | Chříst. |
| fróm | the | wráth | to | come. |
| his king | dóm | and | gló | rý. |
Examples of the conclusion: a formula of one foot preceding the final phrase and one foot ending the final phrase, and with disparate treatment available for monosyllables, Hebrew words, anapaests and false dactyls:

| reprobare | má - lúm | et eligere | bó - núm. |
| sed indu- | í - mí- ní | Dominum Jesum | Chrí - stúm. |
| di- | é - bús | ...consummationem | saé - cū - ĩ. |
| idem | í - pse | ...non de- | fí - cí - ėnt. |
| or: idem ipse | és | ...non de- | fí - cí - ėnt. |
| in Christo | lé - šú | ...Domino | nó - střo. |
| or: in Christo le- | sú | ...Domino | nó - střo. |
| abundetis | in | spé | Spiritus | Sán - cti. |
| or: abundetis in | spé | Spiritus | Sán - cti. |
| | | | quia | nón sunt. |
| | | | or: quia non | sunt. |
| | | | or: sors il- | rūm ēst. |
| | | | or: sors illorum | ēst. |
| | | | petent- | bús šè. |
| | | | or: petentibus | šè. |
| | | | Mel- | chí - sē - déch. |
| | | | or: Melchise- | déch. |
| God our | Fá - thër, | and from the Lord | Jé - sús | Chríst. |
| through | Jé - sús | Chríst, | to the glory and | praise | Žód. |
| or: through Jesus | Chríst, | ...glory and praise of | Žód. |
| to his own | in - tēr- ĕsts, | but to those of | oth - ěřs. |
Tone for the Epistle.

The Epistle is said recto tono, in an even, well-sustained voice without modulation, but the interrogation is made in the ordinary way, as in the tone for the Prophecy.

The second tone, as indicated below, may be used ad libitum. It was formerly in common use.

Title.  

Ecti-o Epi-stolae be-á-ti Páuli Apóstol-li ad Romá-nos.

ad Co-rínthi-os.  ad Gá-latas.  ad Ti-tum.  Lécti-o libri Apocály-

psis be-á-ti Jo-ánnis Apóstol-li.

In the Titles, the metrum is used only for the Epistles of St. Paul and for the Apocalypse as marked above.

Ecti-o Actu-um Apostoló-rum.  In diébus illis: Pétrus...

The words In diébus illis. at the beginning of the text, are always sung as above.

Lécti-o Is-a-l-ae Prophé-tae.  Súrge, illumínáre Jerú-sa-lem: qui-a

véni-t lúmen tú-um: et gló-ri-a Dómi-ni super te órta est.  Qui-a ecce
tenebrae operient terram, et caligo populos: super te autem ori-etur

Dominus, et gloria ejus in te videbitur. Et ambulabant gentes in
lumine tuo, et reges in splendore ortus tu-i. Leva in circuitu

oculos tu-os, et vide: omnes isti congregati sunt, venerunt ti-bi:

filii tui de longe venient, et filiae tuae de latere surgent. Etc.

Conclusion: aurum et thus deferentes, et laudem Domino annuntiantes.

This conclusion is made with two accents, between which there should be a
certain distance, the first accent being modulated before the last phrase of the
sentence, or before the last words which have a complete sense in themselves.

This tone has the metrum and the full stop; the interrogation is made as
for the Prophecy (p. 108). No inflexion is made at words introducing a
quotation. In long sentences, the metrum may be repeated once or several
times, if the meaning allow this; for the metrum may only occur where there
is a certain completion in the sense. On the other hand, if the text is very
short, or if the sense does not allow it, the metrum is omitted altogether.

There is no special rule for monosyllables and Hebrew words.

The ending has its proper modulation even when the text ends with an
interrogation.

Examples of the Metrum.

pro-pi-or est nostra salus.
con-fi-te-bitur Domino.
an-gu-sti-avetur.
sci-en-tiam sanctorum.
per-sequentibus vos.
Madi-an et Ephra.
Domi-nus Deus locus est.

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Examples of the full stop.

indu-a-mur ár-ma lú-cis.
in-ter-fi-ci et ím-pi-um.
ap-pro-pin-quá-bit.
gló-ri-a cae-lé-sti.
di-li-gén-ti-bus se.
re-sur-ré-xit a mór-tu-is.
su-per te ór-ta est.

Examples of the Conclusion.

re-pro-bá-re má-lum et e-li-ge-re bó-num.
sed in-du-i-mi-ni Dóminum Jésum Chri-stum.
ó-mni-bus di-é-bus... consummatiónem saé-cu-li.
a-bun-dé-tis in spe... Spiritus sán-c-ti.
A {í-demí-pse es... non de-fi-ci-ent.
in Chri-sto Jé-su Dómino nó-stro.
B {í-pse es........... non de-fi-ci-ent.
in Chri-sto Jé-su Dómino nó-stro.

Monosyllabic or Hebrew ending:

A

qui-a non sunt.
sors il-ló-rum est.
peténtibus se.
Mel-chi-se-dech.

B

qui-a non sunt.
illórum est.
peténtibus se.
Melchise-dech.
A-men.

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