How to sing the Gospel at Mass in English & Latin – Tone A

D. Gospel Tones

1. Recent Tone. In the most commonly used gospel tone there is a full stop, interrogation, and concluding formula; but neither metrum nor flex. The full stop is a formula of four syllables without regard to the place of accents or character of the feet. The conclusion is a formula of two feet. The interrogation is the same as that used in the prophecy tone and in the epistle tones.

The pattern of the tone is as follows:

![Musical notation diagram]

Full Stop

...se-cún-dum Már-cum.
In illo tempore: Dixit Iesus discipulis suis:

Vos estis sal terre. Quod si sal evanuerit, in quo

salietur? Ad nihilum valet ultra, nisi ut mittatur

foras, et concutetur ab hominibus. Qui autem fecerit

et docuerit, hic magnus vocabitur in regno caelorum.

With an English text, this formula will be as follows:

V. The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit. V. A Reading from

the holy Gospel according to Matthew. ... according to Mark.
... according to Luke.
... according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord At that time Jesus said to his disciples:
"You are the salt of the earth. Suppose salt becomes insipid;

how can you restore its tang? Then it is good for nothing

but to be thrown out, and trampled under-foot. ... It is the

man who observes them and teaches them who will be called great

in the kingdom of heaven.

The full stop is always made by the minor third drop at the fourth last syllable, without regard to accents or feet; hence it requires no table of examples. The interrogation is made in the same manner as in the prophecy and epistle tones, and cannot be used for a concluding formula. The concluding formula is of two feet, and it is not customary to take a disparate treatment for monosyllables, Hebrew words, anapaests and false dactyls. Examples of the concluding formula are as follows:
Tone for the Gospel.

D

Ominus vobiscum. R. Et cum spir-i-tu tu-o. Sequenti-a san-


In illo tempore: Dixit Jé-sus discípulis su-is: Vos estis sal térrae.

Quod si sal evanu-e-rit, in quo sa-li-é-tur? Ad nihilum vále-t ultra, nisi

ut mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus... Conclusion: Qui au-


This tone has only the full stop, which is made by lowering the voice on

the fourth syllable before the end of the sentence. The interrogation is made

in the usual way (p. 103), unless it occurs at the ending (see p. 104).

The modulation of the final ending or conclusion begins on the second

last accent.