

January 2025 • A reader writes :

Examining the ‘Source & Summit’ Missalette published by Adam Bartlett I see his ENTRANCE and COMMUNION ANTIPHONS don’t match what is prescribed by the post-conciliar Roman Gradual; e.g. on the *17th Sunday in Ordinary Time* the Roman Gradual has “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant...etc.” (*Matthew 13: 45, 46*). But the ‘Source & Summit’ has “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits” (*Psalms 102*). What is the reason for this discrepancy? —H. A.

February 2025 • We respond :

First of all, our organization wasn’t involved in creating or administering the ‘Source & Summit’ booklets published by Adam Bartlett. When it comes to why their Communion antiphons don’t match the Roman Gradual, there’s a reason for this.

The ‘Source & Summit’ series uses the **ADALBERT PROPERS**. (The propers composed by Father Samuel Weber also use the **ADALBERT PROPERS**.) The **ADALBERT PROPERS** were created years after the Second Vatican Council ended and were meant only for private Masses (or Masses without a choir). They were created by Dom Adalbert Franquesa Garrós, who wanted the Introit & Communion antiphons at ‘spoken’ Masses to resemble the Protestant *Vorspruch*, “which Protestants also recite at celebrations without singing.” In May of 1970, Dom Adalbert explained his method for creating these ‘spoken’ antiphons :

“Texts were chosen in order of their recitation, without relation to the chant. Therefore, it does not jeopardize the treasury of Gregorian chant in any way, which the Council mandated should be conserved wholly.”

Broadly speaking, Corpus Christi Watershed has recommended the *Graduale* propers, not the **ADALBERT PROPERS**. That’s because it seems better to use the Church’s ancient prayers. Furthermore, the *Graduale* propers have psalms attached to them—allowing them to perfectly match the liturgical action—but the **ADALBERT PROPERS** do not. In 1983, Archbishop Bugnini put it succinctly (*La Riforma Liturgica*), pointing out that the **ADALBERT PROPERS** “were intended to be recited, not sung.”

The late Dr. William Mahrt, a Stanford University professor, wrote in 2015:

“Worse, composers are now setting [Adalbert’s] propers to music—even to chant—though these texts were explicitly for spoken recitation only.”

In recent years, the United States adaptation of the GIRM has suggested the **ADALBERT PROPERS** can be set to music, **but other countries do not**. For instance, the GIRM from Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei doesn’t mention the **ADALBERT PROPERS** as “first option.” It follows the universal GIRM, giving as first option: “the antiphon and psalm from the *Graduale Romanum* or the *Graduale Simplex*.”

The ‘Source & Summit’ booklets (and chant adaptations of Father Samuel Weber) are forced to use the *Graduale Romanum* when it comes to the OFFERTORY ANTIPHONS because Dom Adalbert did not provide those. According to Dom Adalbert: “the Offertory antiphons rarely offer a text of pastoral worth.”

Ashley Rodriguez contributed
to this answer.