Quick Guide to Manuscripts (Antiphonals) and Liturgy
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## Liturgy

The term liturgy derives from the Greek term for "work of the people."
Within the context of Christianity, liturgy refers to a worship service.
Liturgy can also refer to the composite worship services that define a tradition (ex: the Byzantine liturgy).

## Types of Liturgies

Many different liturgies developed during the Middle Ages to facilitate "ceaseless" prayer throughout the day. Some liturgies were long and elaborate (Greater) while others were quite short and simple (Lesser). All liturgies included chant. Most of the liturgies could be sung without the presence of a priest and were called "Office Hours" or "Liturgical Hours." Distinct from these was the Mass, which required a priest.

Table 1. Types of Liturgies

| Office Hours (priest not required) | Greater | Lesser |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Matins | Prime |
|  | Lauds | Terce |
|  | Vespers | Sext |
|  |  | None |
|  |  | Compline |
|  |  |  |

## Daily Liturgical Cycle

Daily round of worship included all of the nine liturgies listed above. The shorter liturgies typically occurred during the day. The longer liturgies typically occurred during the "non-working" hours of early morning, evening, or night. Beginning in the middle of the night, the daily cycle ran as follows:

Table 2. Daily Liturgical Cycle

|  | Time | Latin | Common Abbreviations in Chant Books |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Matins | After Midnight | Ad Matutinum | (0)atutil2 |
| Lauds | After Matins | Ad Laudes |  |
| Prime (i) <br> Terce (iii) <br> Sext (vi) <br> None (ix) | 6 am <br> 9 am <br> noon <br> 3pm | Ad primam <br> Ad tertiam <br> Ad sextam <br> Ad nones |  |
| Vespers | sunset | Ad vesperam | A A y S $\bar{P}$. ADyesprios. |
| Compline | dark | Ad completorium | , (o rompletoziú |

## Contents of Each Liturgy

Each Office Hour, although distinct, had one primary feature in common: the singing of psalms. Poetic "songs" from the Old Testament of the Bible, psalms were sung to one of nine widely-known melodic formulas called psalm tones. Ideally the faithful would sing through all 150 psalms in a single week.

The defining feature of the Mass was the Eucharist, including the consecration and consumption of wine and bread, in imitation of Christ's Last Supper.

## Chant Manuscripts

Beginning in the 9th century, chant melodies began to be written down into large manuscripts. Two predominant types of chant books developed to record the chant for specific types of liturgies:

Antiphonals: For chants of the Office Hours, including many chants called "antiphons" Graduals: For chants of the Mass, including a chant type called the "gradual"

## Chant Manuscript Page Layout

Every chant manuscript is different thanks to regional and era-specific scribal habits. There are some common features, however, seen in this example, below.


Folio number: The pages of a chant manuscript are numbered differently than modern books. The physical page, or folio, is understood to have a front (recto) and back (verso) side.

This example is of folio 14 r ("r" for "recto"). Turning the page would take you to folio 14v ("v" for "verso"). The verso side is not usually labeled.

Folio side refers to a single side of a full folio.

Tight spaces: Parchment was costly, so scribes would often squeeze information into every available space. Often words get broken up or abbreviated. Here, the expanded text is: Sabbato ad benedictus antiphon

Large initials: Usually in a colour other than black, large initials indicate the beginning of a new chant, or the beginning of a new section in the chant.

Tall S: The letter at the beginning of this word is "S" even though it looks like a tall "c". Scribes often used two forms of "s", as seen in this word, "scitis".

Incipit: Common chants are often only partially notated as incipits: short texts with or without music that identify a longer chant needing to be sung in full

Red text = Rubric: Red text is usually reserved for rubrics, which are instructions or descriptors.

Here, the red "ps" indicates that the following text is a psalm. Sometimes large initials (like the "E" at the far left of this folio side) are also red, but these aren't rubrics!

Abbreviations helped scribes save space but assumed that the reader was familiar with Latin. Most abbreviations are made by adding a symbol over or beside a given letter to indicate that other characters are missing. Here, the final "a" of candidā shows that an " m " is missing: candidam

## Chant Types and Offices: Overview

Antiphonals include many different chant types that each have different functions within an Office Hour. Not listed below, but also common are very short, often recitational, versicles and responses.

Table 3. Most Common Chant Types in Antiphonals

| Chant type | Description | Common Abbreviations in Manuscripts |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Antiphon | Short, tuneful chants that precede <br> psalms and canticles | A.A. |

Although antiphonals contain chants for all of the Office Hours, they primarily contain chants for the Greater Office Hours of Matins, Lauds, and Vespers. Not only do the Greater Offices have more chants, but they also have more variable chants - chant types that stay the same, but texts that change.

- The content of Office Hours varies according to monastic or secular (ie. Cathedral) usage. The following charts are based loosely on secular usage.

Table 4. Primary Chants in Matins, Lauds, and Vespers

|  | Matins | Lauds | Vespers |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Invitatory | $\boldsymbol{\iota}$ |  |  |
| Hymn | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ |
| Antiphons + Psalms | 9 | 5 | 5 |
| Responsories | 9 |  |  |
| Te deum | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ |  |  |
| Antiphon + Canticle |  | Benedictus | Magnificat |

Table 5. Primary Chants in the Lesser Hours

|  | Prime | Terce | Sext | None | Compline |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Invitatory |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hymn | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ | $\boldsymbol{V}$ | $\boldsymbol{\checkmark}$ |
| Antiphons + Psalms | 1 Antiphon | 1 Antiphon | 1 Antiphon | 1 Antiphon | 1 Antiphon |
|  | 3-9 Psalms | Up to 3 Psalms | Up to 3 Psalms | Up to 3 Psalms | Up to 3 Psalms |
| Responsories | 1 (short) | 1 (short) | 1 (short) | 1 (short) | 1 (short) |
| Te deum |  |  |  |  |  |
| Antiphon + Canticle |  |  |  |  | Nunc Dimittis |

Example 2. Different Chant Types and Offices in Utrecht 406, 7r


As seen in the case of the Antiphon and Hymn examples above, rubrics are often placed where they will fit on the folio, even if this is after the chant has already begun. That said, rubrics are also often placed immediately before a chant. In this example, the A for Antiphon occurs before the chant begins, but the R for Responsory occurs after the chant has begun.

Like the scribal habit of squeezing as much text as possible into small spaces, the placement of rubrics can be confusing when first learning about manuscripts and liturgy.

## Chant Types

## Antiphons

- Short, tuneful chants
- Sung before and after psalms and canticles, but notated only once


## Antiphon

Psalm or Canticle
— verse 1

- verse 2
- verse 3 ....

Antiphon again

## Psalms and Canticles

- Poetic texts with multiple verses
- Psalms are from the Old Testament, attributed to King David
- Canticles are from the New Testament and include
- Benedictus (Lauds), Magnificat (Vespers), Nunc dimittis (Compline)
- Sung to one of nine well-known melodic formulas called psalm tones


## Psalm Tones

- Nine different melodic formulas ("tones"), each dominated by a reciting pitch for declaiming text - defined by different ornamental gestures at the beginning middle and end of each melodic formula
- Rarely fully notated in manuscripts, as they were well known and easy to remember
- Two-part structure corresponds to two halves in each psalm or canticle verse

Intonation, Recitation pitch, Mediating cadence | Recitation, Terminating cadence ||
Example 3.
Psalm tone 2


## Differentia

- "Terminating cadence" that ends each Psalm/Canticle verse and links back to the antiphon's first pitch.
- Notated over euouae ( $s \boldsymbol{E} c \boldsymbol{U} l \boldsymbol{O} r \boldsymbol{U} m . \boldsymbol{A} m \boldsymbol{E} n$ ) and/or over the textual incipit for a Psalm or Canticle

Example 4a. Psalm tone 8 with three possible differentia


Example 4b. Paris 12044, 3r: Antiphon with differentia for psalm tone 8


Example 4c. Paris 12044, 6r: Antiphon with Canticle incipit and differentia for psalm tone 2


## Invitatory antiphon

- An antiphon sung in alternation between verses of Psalm 94, Venite exsultemus.
- Venite is not usually fully notated but given as an incipit only
- Text incipit can be "Venite" or even "Veie" (vowels of Venite)

Example 5. Paris 12044, 4v: Invitatory (antiphon) with Venite


## Responsory

- Ornate chant with two primary parts: Respond and Verse

Example 6a. Paris 12044, 213r. Two parts of the Responsory Respond and Verse


- The Respond (part one) has a special ending section called the Repetendum
- typically begins half way through the Respond and continues to the beginning of the Verse


## Example 6b. Finding the Repetendum



- The Repetendum repeats after the Verse is complete, indicated by a short Repetendum cue - the "cue" identifies the text and music that repeat, by providing the first few words and notes of the repeating section
-the cue helps to identify the location of the Repetendum if not initially identified in the Respond
- Overall form is like dal segno al fine in common practice period music OR an A B A' form
- A (Respond) B (Verse) A' (Repetendum only)


## Hymns

- Poetic texts with multiple stanzas
- Same music for each stanza
- Often no music or only an incipit is given for a hymn (tune would have been well known and easier to remember given the many repetitions of the melody for multiple verses)

Example 7. Paris 12044, 31r: Hymn with incipit only


## Versicles and Response

- Short sung sentences followed by a short sung Response
- Often sung predominantly to a single pitch
- Sung response is not always notated

Example 8. Paris 12044, 19v. Recitational versicle with no notated response


## Sequences

- Found usually in Graduals, not Antiphonals
- Rhymed pairs of verses (aa bb cc dd ee ...)
- Music repeats with the rhymed pairs of verses (aa bb cc dd ee ...)


## Office Hours

Each Office Hour has a different structure. The content varies according to monastic or secular (ie. Cathedral) usage, and with the time of year. The following descriptions are based loosely on secular use.

Matins is the most distinct within the Office Hours. Some of the defining features are as follows:

Table 6. Structure of Matins

| Chants | Section | Select Manuscript Abbreviations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Versicles and responses | Opening |  |
| Invitatory antiphon with Venite |  |  |
| Hymn | Nocturne 1 |  |
| Multiple antiphons and psalms <br> (often 3-6) | Nocturne 2 |  |
| Multiple lessons and responsories <br> (often 3-6) | Nocturne 3 |  |
| Multiple antiphons and psalms <br> (often 3-6) |  |  |
| Multiple lessons and responsories <br> (often 3-6) | Ending |  |
| Multiple antiphons and psalms <br> (often 3-6) |  |  |
| Multiple lessons and responsories <br> (often 3-6) |  |  |
| Te deum laudamus |  |  |
| Versicles and responses |  |  |

Lauds and Vespers are similar to Prime, Terce, Sext, and None, but have more psalms, and instead of a short responsory, include a canticle. Compline has a canticle (Nunc dimittis) like Lauds and Vespers, and a short responsory, like Prime, Terce, Sext, None

Table 7. Structure of Lauds and Vespers

| Chants |  | Select Manuscript Abbreviations |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Opening versicles |  |  |
| Antiphons with 5 psalms |  |  |
| Chapter (short reading) |  | Capl |
| Hymn |  |  |
| Versicle and response |  |  |
| Lauds: Antiphon and Benedictus | Canticle* |  <br> OR Neval Jneval Jeductio. |
| Vespers: Antiphon and Magnificat |  |  |
| Collect and Benedicamus domino |  |  |

* The Canticles of Lauds and Vespers are sometimes given the rubric "in evangelium" as they are from texts attributed to Luke, an evangelist from the New Testament.

Example 9. Einsiedeln $611,17 \mathrm{v}$. Matins antiphons and responsories


## Chant Manuscripts

Liturgical Year: Not only do specific offices follow patterns from day-to-day, but the whole worship year follows a pattern called the "Liturgical Year". Comprised of seasons and feasts, the liturgical year celebrate the life of Christ in its various stages, from birth (Christmas) to death (Easter) as well as the lives of numerous Christian saints.

Chant Manuscripts and the Liturgical Year: Chant manuscripts are typically organized according to the liturgical year, beginning with Advent and ending with Trinity season (from Pentecost until Advent).

Table 8. Liturgical Seasons

| Season (English) | (Latin) | Common Manuscript Abbreviations |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Advent | Adventum domini | ADİCItit Oni ADYENI Y DN1 |
| Christmas (Eve) | Vigilia natalis Nativitas domini/Natale domini | VIOtIA NATALS latalc dill |
| Epiphany | Epiphania | eprolura. |
| Septuagesima (70 days before Easter) |  | fettiagsima. |
| Lent | Quadragesima |  |
| - Palm Sunday | - Dominica palmarum | Aomin palmay. |
| - Holy Thursday | - Cena domini | ¢116.80. |
| - Good Friday | - Parasceve | pavafotuc |
| - Holy Saturday | - Sabbato sancto | Sablio.fro. |
| Easter (Eve) | Vigilia pasche, Dominica Resurrectionis, Pascha | vignla futibe |
| Ascension | Ascensio | Afcen- 0. |
| Pentecost |  | perthl. |
| Trinity | De Trinitate | fanta trintate. |

## Weeks, Ferias (days), and Feasts

Each season is comprised of multiple weeks which in turn include many days (ferias) and feasts.

- Weeks -Each season has many weeks
-The first week of a season is referred to as the octave (ie: 8 days)
-Subsequent weeks within a season are often indicated by counting the Sundays Ex: Dominica ii marks the beginning of week 2 within a season
- Ferias -Specific days within a week

- Feasts - Special days, including Saint's days
-Can mark the beginning of a season or fall within a season. Ex: Vıglia. Hatuttang din Vigilia Nativitatis domini (Christmas Eve) Dtglia. $\frac{\text { attutang } 011 \text { falls within the season of Christmas }}{}$
-Can be simple or double! - Simple: includes a First Vespers on the eve of the feast
- Double: First Vespers (eve of) and Second Vespers (day of)

Ex: - Feast of St. Ursula (simple): First Vespers on the eve of the feast replaces the usual Vespers. Vespers on the actual feast of St. Ursula contains the usual Vespers psalms with extra texts.

- Feast of St. Luke (double rank for an apostle): First Vespers (on the eve) and Second Vespers (on the feast), both with unique liturgies.


## Temporale, Sanctorale, Commune

Not only are chant manuscripts organized according to the liturgical year; they are typically divided into three large sections or, sometimes separate volumes:

## Temporale (of the Time)

- Contains chants for liturgical seasons, which largely have variable dates
-Ex: the date for Easter is determined by the first full moon of the Spring equinox; dates for the seasons around Easter adjust accordingly.
-Exception: the Christmas season is within the Temporale, but has fixed date (Dec. 25-Jan. 6)

Both Antiphonals and Graduals include a Temporale, Sanctorale, and Commune

## Sanctorale (of the Saints)

- Contains chants for specific, fixed saints' days, rather than the variable or relative dates of the Temporale
- Often rivals the size of the Temporale, to accommodate the many saints commemorated in most traditions
- Saints commemorated in the Sanctorale depends on the region and date of a specific manuscript

Commune sanctorum (Common of the Saints)

- Contains chants "in common" to specific types of saint (virgin, bishop, etc)
- Supplement the chants for specific saints' days. For example, the feast of St. Ursula, virgin martyr (Oct.

21) might be supplemented with chants for a virgin martyr from the Commune sanctorum.

Table 9. Temporale, Sanctorale and Commune

| Temporale (of the Time) | Sanctorale (of the Saints) |  | Commune sanctorum (Common of Saints) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Advent | for example: |  | for example: |
| Christmas | Nov. 30 | St. Andrew | For a bishop |
| Epiphany | Dec. 8 | Conception of Mary | For a bishop martyr |
| Lent | Jan. 25 | Conversion of St. Paul | For a bishop not a pope |
| Easter | Feb. 14 | St. Valentine | For a virgin |
| Ascension | Mar. 17 | St. Patrick | For a virgin martyr |
| Pentecost | Aug. 15 | Assumption of Mary |  |
| Trinity |  |  |  |

Example 10. Paris 15181, 120r. Evidence of the Liturgical Time on the Manuscript Page
Season of Advent:
Adventus domini


## For further reference

Helpful resources used in the compilation of this Guide include:
Harper, John. The Forms and Orders of Western Liturgy from the Tenth to the Eighteenth Century: A Historical Introduction and Guide for Students and Musicians. Oxford: Clarendon Paperbacks, 1991.

Hughes, Andrew. Medieval Manuscripts for Mass and Office. A Guide to their Organization and Terminology. Toronto; Buffalo; London: University of Toronto Press, 1982.

## Manuscripts used in this Guide

- CH-SGs 390 (St. Gall/Hartker, 10th C)
- F-Pn Lat. 12044 (Paris, Early 12th C)
- NL-Uu 406 (3 J 7) (Utrecht, ca. 12th-15th C)
- CH-E 611 (Einsiedeln, 14th C)
- CDN-Hsmu M2149.L4 (Salzinnes, 1554)


## Types of Liturgies

1. Which Office Hour matches which abbreviation below? Terce, Vespers, Matins, Lauds (examples from Utrecht 406, 17v)
(a) $\qquad$

(b) $\qquad$ (c) $\qquad$ (d) $\qquad$

2. The Office Hours occur throughout the day and night. Match each Office Hour and its approximate time with the manuscript examples below. (examples from Utrecht 406, 7r, 98r) Sunset, After midnight, 9am, 6am, Dark

OFFICE HOUR
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)


## Manuscript Page

3. Identify the following in the provided manuscript example:
(a) folio number $\qquad$
(b) rubric

(Einsiedeln 611)

## Chant Types

4. Match the following abbreviations with the corresponding chant type: (examples from Cologne 1161, 17r-v)

Verse, Psalm, Invitatory, Antiphon, Responsory

(a)

$\qquad$
(b)

$\qquad$
(c)

$\qquad$
(d)

$\qquad$
(e)

$\qquad$
5. Identify each of the following chants as one of the following: Responsory, Differentia, Antiphon
(a) Antequam convenirent: $\qquad$

(Cologne 1161, 17r)
(b) O Iuda et Iherusalem:

(Cologne 1161, 17r)
(c) Euоиае $\qquad$

6. Certain chant types occur only within certain office hours.

Match the following chants with one of the following office hours: Lauds, Matins, Vespers (examples from Paris 12044, 11r-v, 19r)
(a)

(b)

(c)

$\qquad$
7. (a) What is an incipit? $\qquad$
(b) Identify the psalm incipit:

(Salzinnes A35r)
(c) Identify the psalm incipit:
(b) Identify the differentia:


[^0]9. In the chants below, identify the following:
(a) Start of the Responsory (b) Repetendum (c) Start of the Verse
(d) Repetendum cue

(Utrecht 406, 12v)
10. Match the rubrics V and R with the beginning of the appropriate chant

(Utrecht 406, 12v)

## Liturgical year

11. Match the following abbreviations with the given days/occasions within the liturgical year:

Friday (feria vi), Saturday (Sabbato), Tuesday (feria iii), Saint Lucy's Day (Sancte Lucie), Advent (examples from Paris $15181,119 \mathrm{r}-\mathrm{v}, 383 \mathrm{v}$ )
(a)

(b)

$\qquad$
(c)

(d)

$\qquad$
(e)

$\qquad$
12. Chant manuscripts are usually divided into three sections:

## Temporale, Sanctorale, and Commune.

In which section would the following be found?
(examples from Utrecht 10v, 51r)
s. 214 cte

## Answer Key

1. (a) Matins (b) Vespers (c) Lauds (d) Terce
2. (a) Compline; dark (b) Prime; 6am (c) Terce; 9am (d) Matins; after midnight (e) Vespers; sunset
3. (a) 238 r
(b) rubric: any one circled in red

4. (a) antiphon (b) responsory (c) verse (d) psalm (e) invitatory
5. (a) antiphon (b) invitatory (c) differentia
6. (a) Vespers (b) Matins (c) Lauds
7. (a) The opening text and/or pitches of a chant (b) Circled

8. (a) Responsory: green (b) Repetendum: red arrow (c) Verse: blue (d) Repetendum cue: black

9. 


11. (a) Advent (b) Saturday (c) Tuesday (d) St. Lucy's Day (e) Friday
12. Sanctorale (for Saints' days)


[^0]:    (Salzinnes A33r)

