

with a circumflex ^.) In Psalm-tones 2, 3, 5, and 8, the tone is dropped a minor 3rd from the *tuba*; in Psalm-tones 1, 4, 6, and 7, the tone is dropped a Major 2nd. The *flexa* occurs only in the first half-verse. Example:

VIII

redemption unto his peo- ple, † he hath commanded...
maketh glad the hêart of man, † and oil to make...

The execution of the Psalmody and Canticles is as follows:

Antiphon: Cantor intones until the star *. Whole choir continues and sings the Antiphon to the end.

Psalm: Cantor intones the first half of the first verse with the *initium*, in order to set the tempo of recitation. Choir I sings the second half of the first verse. Choir II sings the second verse without the *initium*. Choir I sings the third verse without *initium*. Choir II sings the fourth verse, etc. Each half-choir begins singing its verse when the other half-choir has finished, with no intervening pause. This means that the one choir must take a breath before the other has finished singing. Verses are divided musically, not canonically. For example, Psalm 69:2, and 4 are divided into two liturgical verses.

Gloria Patri: Choir I or II sings "Glory be to the Father..." on the same Psalm-tone. Choir II or I (the other choir, as the case may be) sings "As it was in the beginning...Amen." Note: Missouri Synod custom is that the whole choir sings the *Gloria Patri* in unison.

Antiphon repeated: The whole choir repeats the Antiphon without intonation of the cantor.

The cantor leads the choir and the choir leads the congregation. The **organ**, especially if not located in the choir area, is less suited to the role of leading the gregorian prayer offices. If there is a choir organ present, it can, beyond prelude and postlude, take over the functions of a figural choir, can intone and accompany congregational hymns and chants, and with a large congregation, can support the singing in a restrained manner.

A **figural choir** can execute the Psalms, Responsory, and Canticle with polyphony. The figural choir can also take over individual stanzas of the Office Hymn, or alternate stanzas in other hymns and chants. In the Psalmody, the opportunity to perform several Psalms should especially be observed. In the Canticle, a figural execution together with the unison singing of the congregation is not recommended. Here an alternation by whole verse of the figural choir and congregation may be appropriate.

Source: Vereinigte Evangelische-Lutherische Kirche Deutschlands. *Kleines Kantonale II*. Hannover: Schlütersche Buchdruckerei, 1969. pp. 8-16.