TRIPLE ALLELUIAS

In its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the Second Vatican Council (1962-1964) required that official sacred chant books for the Church be published with care:

§117. The typical edition of the books of Gregorian chant is to be completed; and a more critical edition is to be prepared of those books already published since the restoration by St. Pius X. It is desirable also that an edition be prepared containing simpler melodies, for use in small churches.

One edition containing simpler melodies was released as the Graduale Simplex in 1967. Since then, use of Simplex antiphons in the U.S. has been limited, but at least one scholar has written that the Simplex did exert a considerable effect on the Alleluia before the Gospel.¹ Prior to the new Missal of 1970, the Alleluias were sizable melismatic chants. When usage of the Graduale Romanum declined, the Simplex approach of substituting a short, “triple” Alleluia was adopted widely as the new default. Use of the actual melodies was not.

Whatever the faults of the overall approach of the Simplex, its Alleluias are good examples of modal melody. Some are somber, some haunting. They also have interesting rhythmic variety if one pays careful attention to groups of two and three.

All the triple Alleluia melodies in the Simplex are shown below.

Advent Mass I; Holy Family; Ordinary Time Mass V

Verse in Mode IV E

Al-le-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.


Triple Alleluias from the Graduale Simplex – p. 1 of 5
Advent Mass II; Sacred Heart
Verse in Mode II D

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Christmas; Epiphany; Corpus Christi; Christ the King
Verse in Mode III g

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Easter Vigil
Verse is recto tono on G, mediant accent on A, ending:

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle- lú-ia.

Easter Day; Ascension; Pentecost
This is the communion antiphon on Easter Day. Troped on Ascension, Pentecost.
Verse in Mode VI F

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Triple Alleluias from the Graduale Simplex – p. 2 of 5
Eastertide: Mass I and II
Verse in Mode VIII G

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Trinity Sunday; OT Mass III
Verse in Mode VII a

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Ordinary Time Mass I
Verse in Mode VIII c

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Ordinary Time Mass II
Verse in Mode II D

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.
Ordinary Time Mass IV
Verse in Mode I g 2

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Ordinary Time Mass VI uses Alleluia from OT Mass II or OT Mass III.

Ordinary Time Mass VII uses Alleluia from OT Mass IV or OT Mass V.

Ordinary Time Mass VIII
Verse in Mode VIII c

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Mass for the Dead
Verse in Mode IV E

Alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Triple Alleluias from the Graduale Simplex – p. 4 of 5
Proper of the Saints

Presentation: use Alleluia for Advent Mass I
St. Joseph: Holy Family
Annunciation: Advent Mass I
St. John Baptist: Ordinary Time Mass IV
Peter & Paul: Christmas
Transfiguration: Trinity Sunday
Assumption: Trinity Sunday
Birth of BMV: Advent Mass I
Holy Cross: Ordinary Time Mass II
Archangels: Trinity Sunday
All Saints: Ordinary Time Mass I
Immaculate Conception: Advent Mass I
Dedication of a Church: Christmas
Wedding: Trinity Sunday

Triple Alleluias from the Graduale Simplex – p. 5 of 5