

Lesson 1: Asperges

JMJ

- We begin Sunday Mass with the *Asperges Me*.
- *Asperges me* means “You will sprinkle me.” The priest sprinkles us with Holy Water.
- We are reminded of our Baptism and how we need forgiveness for our sins.
- Most children like to sing the *Asperges Me*. Can you sing it?

- Since you know the *Asperges* so well, we will use it to study our first chant.
- Chant is written using four lines and three spaces. These lines are called the **staff**.
- The black squares on the staff are called **neums** (“nooms”).
- Below the staff are the **words** of the prayer, *Asperges Me*.
- The shape of the **neums** on the staff tells you how the words are sung.
- God is especially pleased when we sing our prayers.

- Now we will learn about some different parts of the chant, one color at a time.

The Ordinary Chants of the Mass

The Asperges.

OUTSIDE PASCHAL TIME. ANT. 7.

XIII. c.

A-SPERGES me,* Dómi-ne, hyssópo, et mundá-
bor : lavá-bis me, et super nívem de- albá-bor.
Ps. 50. Mi-se-ré-re mé-i, Dé-us,* se-cúndum mágnam mi-
se-ricórdi-am tú-am. Gló-ri-a Pátri, et Fí-li-o, et
Spi-rí-tu-i Sáncto.* Sic-ut é-rat in princí-pi-o, et nunc,
et semper, et in saécu-la saecu-ló-rum. A-men.

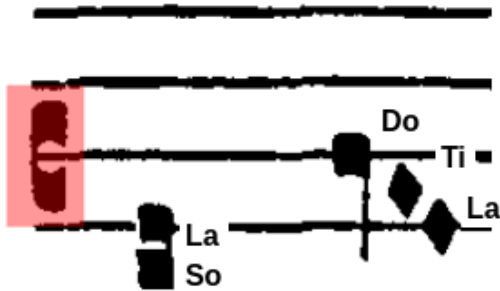
Repeat the Ant. Aspérges me.

¶ *On the first Sunday of the Passion the Glória Pátri. is not said, but the Antiphon Aspérges me. is repeated immediately after the Psalm.*

On the second Sunday of the Passion, or Palm Sunday, the Aspérges is omitted.

The *Do* Clef

- Have you heard of *Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do*? Can you sing it?
- Each **staff** begins with a *Do* clef, marked in red.



- The line marked by the *Do* clef shows you where *Do* is!
- The space above this line is *Re* (the next line up is *Mi*, then *Fa*...)
- The space below this line is *Ti* (the next line down is *La*, then *So*..)



- Our *Do-Re-Mi*'s tell us how the **melody** of the chant sounds.
- Since you already know how it sounds, try singing the first two words, "*Asperges me*," on your *Do-Re-Mi*'s:

Ahhhhhh | Sperrrrrrrrrr | Jesssss | May

So – La | Do – Ti – La | Ti – Do | Re

- The *Asperges Me* starts on *So*. Do you see why?

The Asterisk

- The asterisk is a little star (*) that sometimes appears beside the words. It is marked in orange.
- The asterisk tells you when the **cantors** should sing.
- The **cantors** are important singers who sometimes sing alone!
- The cantors sing everything **before** the asterisk by themselves. **After** the asterisk, the rest of us start singing.
- Here we can see the **cantors'** parts in orange. We should be very quiet during these parts!

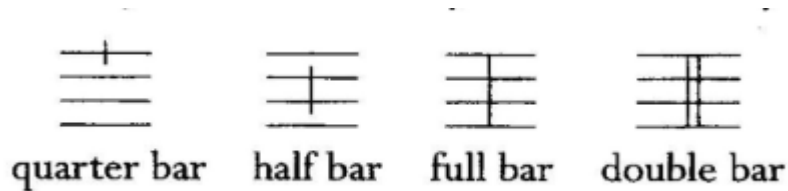
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- You have to be a very brave boy to be a cantor. Could you be a cantor one day?

Bar Lines

- Bar lines are where we stop to catch our breath. They are marked in **yellow**.
- There are four different types of bar lines:



- At a **quarter bar**, you can take a **quick** breath, but only if you **really** need to!
- At a **half bar**, **everyone** will take a **short** pause for a breath.
- At a **full bar**, **everyone** will take a **longer** pause.
- A **double bar** is just like a **full bar**, but can also tell the congregation or cantors when they should sing (like in the *Gloria* and *Credo*).
- Remember to watch your director at the breath marks so you know when to start singing again!

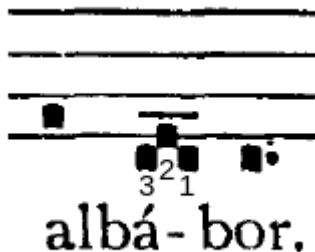
Episemas

- Sometimes you will see a horizontal line above a neum. These are called **episemas** (*ep-i-SEE-mahs*) and are marked in green.



hyssopo,

- The neum with the **episema** gets extra attention: we hold the note for a bit longer!
- Think about how you sing *Domine hyssopo* in the *Asperges Me*. Notice how you linger on the first note of the **SO** in *hysSOpo*?
- We do the same thing anywhere else we see an **episema**.
- Sometimes you will see an episema over three neums squished together (also called a **torculus**):



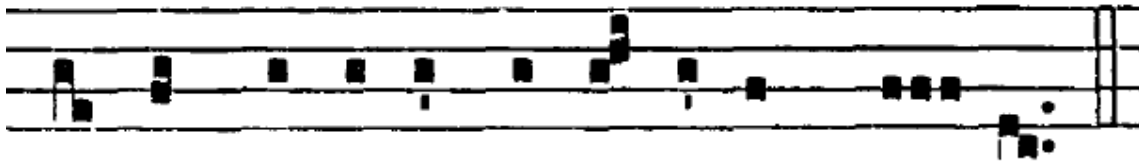
- When this happens, we sing the first note for three counts, the second note for two counts, and the third note for one count.
- Think about how you sing *alabor* at the end of the *Asperges Me*. You can “count” it like this:

al | bahhhhhhhhhh – aahhhhhhhh – ah | *bor*

one-two-three one-two one

Dotted Notes

- Some neums have a **dot** after them. These are marked in blue.
- You will often see these dotted neums at the end of a phrase:



et in saécu-la saecu-ló-rum. A-men.

- Each dotted note is held for twice as long, and we usually slow down a bit when we sing them.
- Have we seen anything else so far that also makes us hold a note longer? (episema)

Quilisma

- There is a funny looking neum with a squiggly line in the middle! This is called a quilisma (*quee-LEES-mah*) and is marked in purple.
- A quilisma always has three ascending notes:



Dómi-ne,

- The first note of the quilisma is held for a bit longer and often grows in volume.
- Think about how you sing *Domine* at the very beginning of the *Asperges Me*. The **DO** in **DOmine** is a quilisma!
- Quilismas are interesting neums because they build anticipation about where the chant will take us next.