

Here are five of the simplest Psalm tones taken from the nine Psalm tone families for chanting in private devotions. Simply print out and cut into 4 convenient cards.

The notation is a simplified version of the original sources. You can freely choose a tone for each Psalm.

The two measures correspond to the two lines in each verse. It's helpful to chant slowly and pause for reflection between each measure.

The  symbol represents DO on the DO-RE-MI scale.

The first two pick-up notes are only chanted on the first verse and then omitted in subsequent verses.

The three closely spaced notes are for the string of words which are chanted on the same tone (the actual notes chanted are not necessarily three in number).

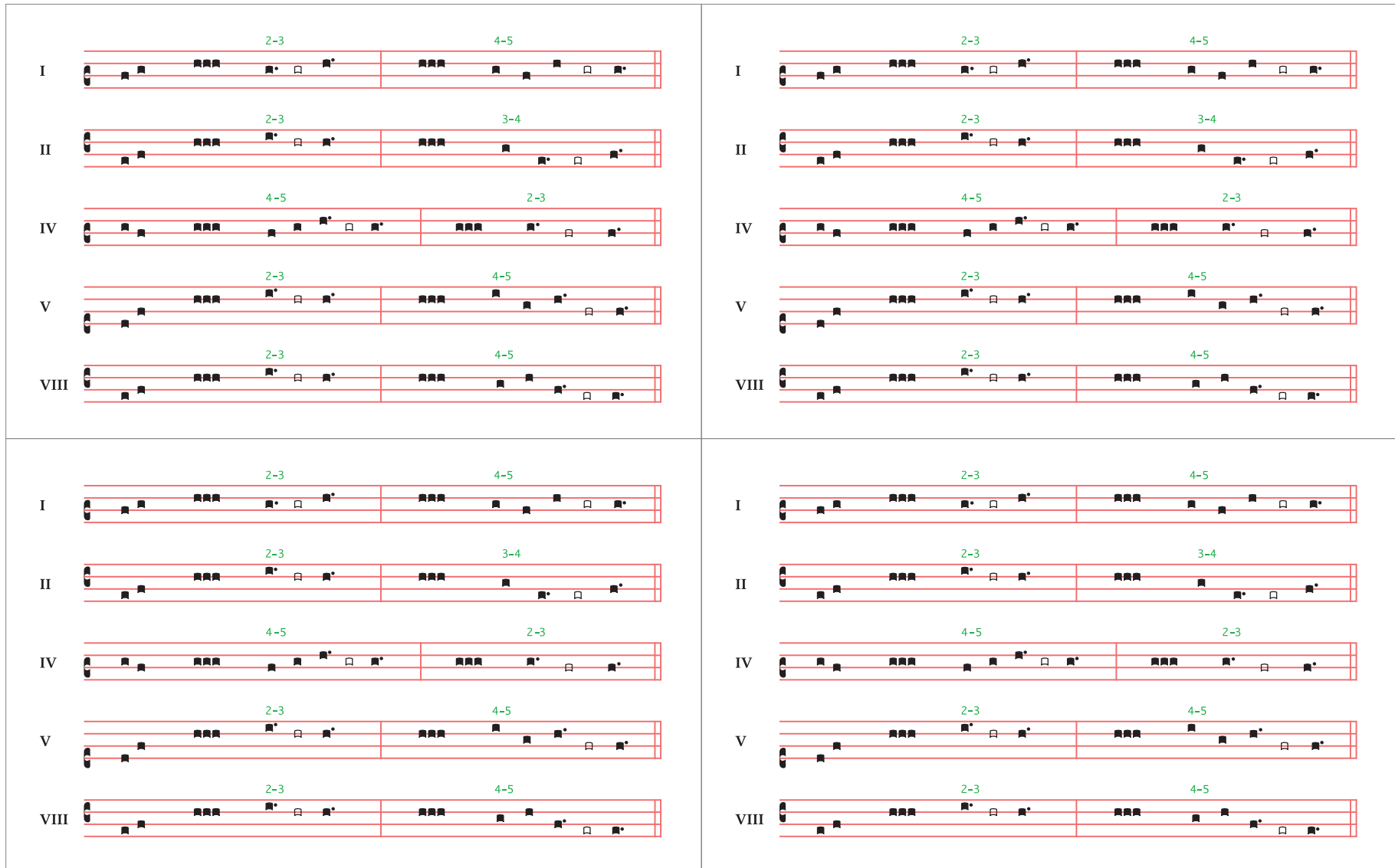
The green numbers indicate how many syllables will fit in the closing notes of the measure so you can calculate "on the fly" where to depart from the string of monotone notes.

The dotted notes are held a little longer than the others. The hollow notes correspond to extra syllables in the words.

The final note of the first measure can be ignored if the final word sounds more natural without it.

When there are three lines instead of two in a verse, the first line is chanted to the string of monotone notes in first measure, with the final one or two notes simply chanted two notes lower.

Then the remaining two lines are chanted to the first and second measure as usual.



The image displays a 2x4 grid of musical notation for five Psalm tones: I, II, IV, V, and VIII. Each tone is represented by two measures of music on a four-line staff. The notation includes a C-clef at the beginning of each staff. The first measure of each staff starts with two pick-up notes. The notes are represented by black squares (monotone) and hollow squares (extra syllables). Dotted notes indicate longer durations. Green numbers above the notes indicate the number of syllables that can fit in the closing notes of the measure. The tones are arranged as follows:

- Row 1: I (2-3, 4-5), II (2-3, 3-4), IV (4-5, 2-3), V (2-3, 4-5), VIII (2-3, 4-5)
- Row 2: I (2-3, 4-5), II (2-3, 3-4), IV (4-5, 2-3), V (2-3, 4-5), VIII (2-3, 4-5)