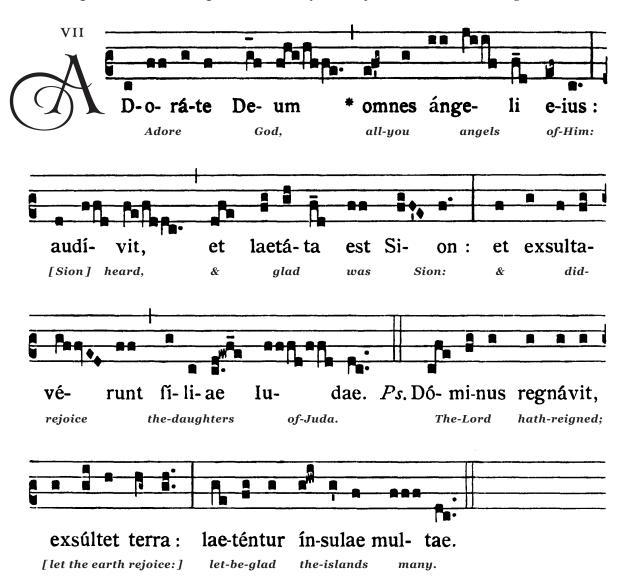
INTROIT • 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, EF (Ps 96: 7-8) Bow down before God, all his Angels: Sion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced. (Ps 96: 1) Vs. The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad, let the many isles rejoice. *Possible Starting Pitch =Eb*



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One of the angels wished to destroy the angelic harmony, but he was cast into hell. Now there is perfect accord, and all the angels offer their homage to God. The Church (*Sion*) hears it and shouts for joy. Each of the following Sundays after Epiphany repeats the same chants—text and melody. The text must still be viewed in the light of Epiphany. Christ still stands before us as the "Lord," as the "King." Angels surround and adore Him. In a verse which was formerly sung in connection with this *Introit*, He is addressed thus: "Thou are the most high Lord over all the earth: Thou art exalted exceedingly above all gods." In the primitive Church, the healing of the leper in this Sunday's Gospel (*Third Sunday after Epiphany*) signified a type of Baptism; the participation in the heavenly table refers to the Holy Eucharist.