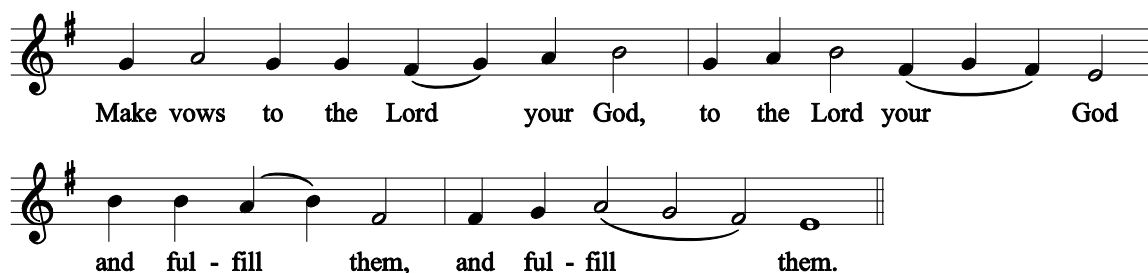


The Tone 8 Prokeimenon melody

The Tone 8 prokeimenon melody is one of the easiest of this family of melodies.

Here is the Prokeimenon of the Resurrection in Tone 8, sung at the Divine Liturgy.



Make vows to the Lord your God, to the Lord your God
and ful - fill them, and ful - fill them.

The melody should always be sung smoothly, from one bar line to the next.

The form of the melody

Prokeimenon melodies are special, in that the same basic melody can sometimes be divided up in different ways. Here is the basic form of the tone 8 prokeimenon:



do do ti do re re do re mi ti do ti la mi mi re mi ti
ti do re do ti la

This form can be seen in the prokeimenon of Pascha:



This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and re-joyce in it.

These are both perfectly valid settings of the same prokeimenon melody. The Sunday prokeimenon is divided into four phrases; the prokeimenon of Pascha is divided into two. This suggests that, when singing the Sunday prokeimenon, you might make a shorter break between the first two phrases, and between the last two phrases, and a slightly longer pause or breath between phrases two and three. (This also matches the sense of the text!)

Just be sure not to stop completely in the middle of any prokeimenon or Alleluia; there should always be forward movement from beginning to end.

The Alleluia in Tone 8

Here is the Alleluia melody in Tone 8:

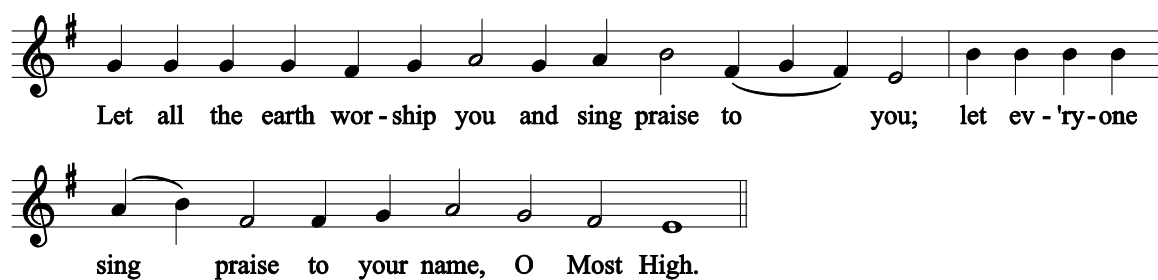


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Compare it to the form given above; the two match closely.

Another example of the Tone 8 prokeimenon melody

Here is the prokeimenon of the feast of the Nativity (December 25):



Let all the earth wor - ship you and sing praise to you; let ev - 'ry - one
sing praise to your name, O Most High.

In this case, the similarity between the prokeimenon and Alleluia are very close.