

Officium stellae, The Play of the Three Kings

*In die Epiphaniae, Tercia cantata, TRES
CLERICI de majori sede cappis et coronos
ornati, ex tribus partibus cum suis
famulis, tunicis et amictis indutis ante
altare convenient.*

*On the day of Epiphany, Tierce being
sung, three clerks of the upper [row of
choir] stalls, adorned with robes and
crowns, from three directions with their
servants in tunics and amices gather
before the altar.*

*PRIMUS stans retro altare, quasi ab Oriente veniens,
stellam baculo ostendat, dicat simplici voce:*

S 
tel- la fulgo-re ni-mi- o ru-ti-lat.


*The first standing behind the altar, as
if coming from the east , points to the
star with his staff and says simply:
This star shines with exceeding
brightness.*

SECUNDUS a parte dextera venies:

Q 
ue re-gem regum na-tum demonstrat.

*The second approaches from the
right :
It shows the birth of the King of
Kings.*


TERCIUS a sinistra parte veniens, dicat versum:

Q 
uem ventu-rum o- lim prophe- ci- a si-gnave- rat.

*The third , coming from the
left side, says the verse:*

*Whose coming was long
foretold by prophets.*

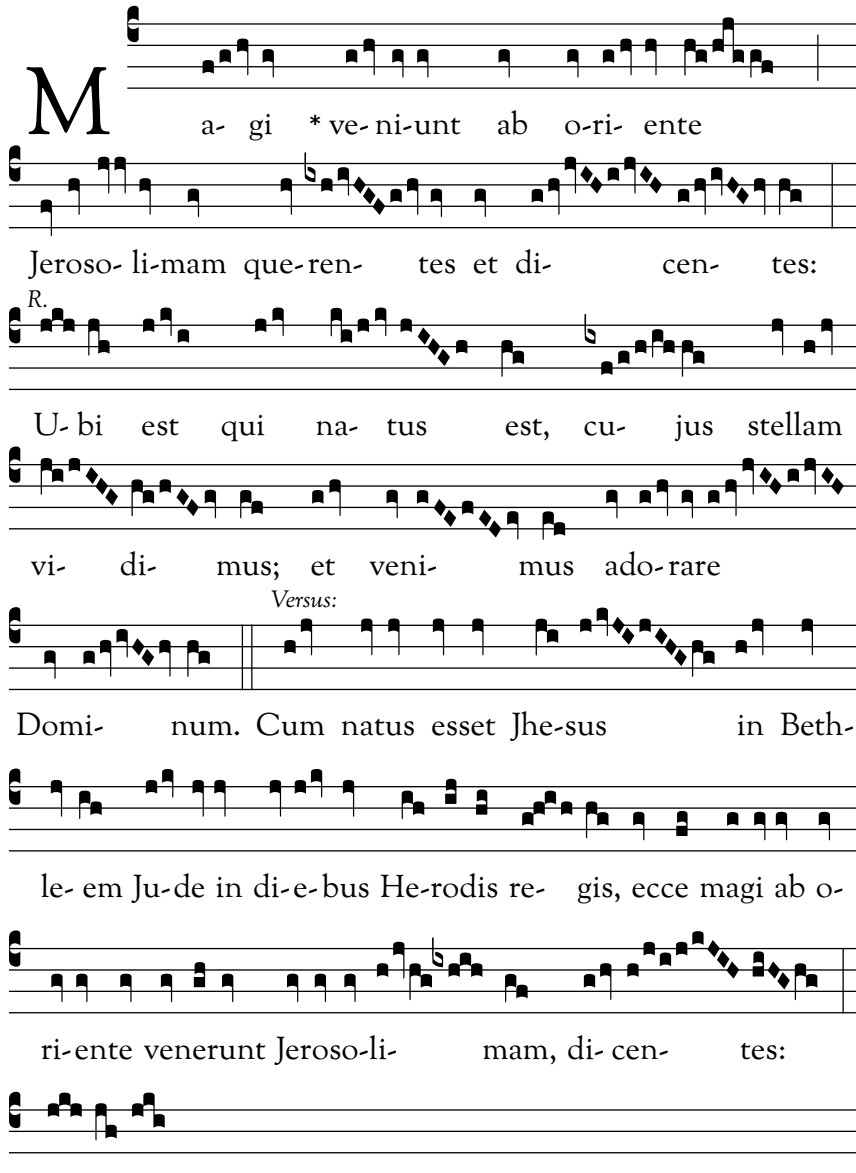
*Tunc regressi, ante altare aggregati osculentur sese, simul di-
centes versum:*

E 
- a-mus er-go et in-qui-ra- mus e- um, of-
fe-rentes e- i mu-ne-ra: aurum, thus et myrrham.

*Then they return, gathering
before the altar and kiss, at
the same time saying the
verse:*

*So let us go and seek him,
offering gifts: gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.*

Hoc finito, eat processio ut in dominicis, CANTORE incipiente:



M a- gi *ve-ni-unt ab o-ri- ente
Jero-so-li-mam que-ren- tes et di- cen- tes:
R.
U- bi est qui na- tus est, cu- jus stellam
vi- di- mus; et veni- mus ado- rare
Versus:
Domi- num. Cum natus esset Jhe- sus in Beth-
le- em Ju- de in di- e- bus He- rodis re- gis, ecce magi ab o-
ri- ente venerunt Jero-so- li- mam, di- cen- tes:
U- bi est...

When this is finished,
they process as on
Sunday, the cantor
intoning:

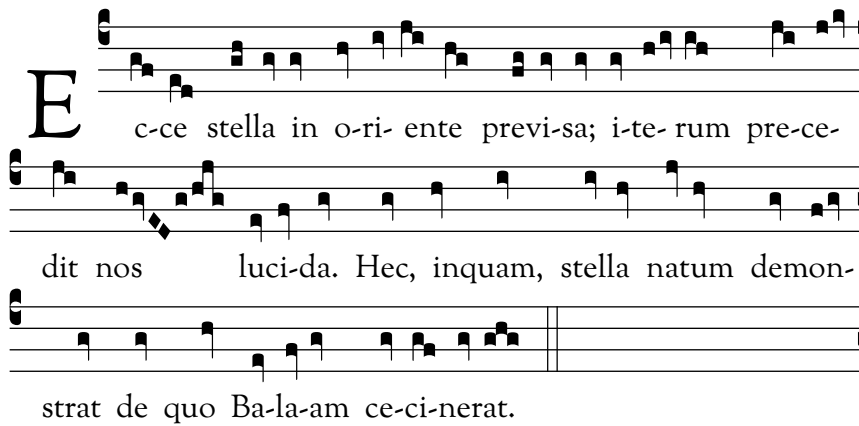
The Magi came
from the East
unto Jerusalem,
seeking and saying:

“Where is he who is
born, whose star we
have seen,
and whom we are
come to worship as
the Lord?”

Verse: When Jesus
was born in
Bethlehem of Judea
in the days of King
Herod, behold,
Magi from
the East came to
Jerusalem, saying,
“Where is he...

Entering the nave of the Church, they point to the star with a staff, and singing the antiphon begin to make their way to the altar, saying,

Ad introitum navis ecclesie, Magi ostendentes stella cum baculis, incipiant antiphonam et cantantes pergant ad altare, dicentes:



E c-ce stella in o-ri- ente previ-sa; i-te- rum pre-ce-
dit nos luci-da. Hec, inquam, stella natum demon-
strat de quo Ba-la-am ce-ci-nerat.

Behold, the star already seen in the East again goes before us, shining brightly.

This star shows the birth of him whom Balaam had sung:

Versus:



O-ri- tur stel- la ex Jacob, et e-xurget ho-mo de I-sra-hel
et confringet o-mnes du-ces a-li-eni-genarum, et e- rit
o-mnis terra possessi-o e- jus.

Versus :

A star shall come out of Jacob, and a man arise from Israel

and break all the princes of the nations, and all earth shall be His possession.