Gregorian Chant Lesson Plan - 4th/5th Grade

Objective/Learning Target - SWBAT "I Can" discuss, practice and sing sacred chant.
Standards:
Connecting: **Mu.Cn11.1.5C-WI** - Exhibit understanding of the two-way relationship between music and people of various cultures, ethnicities, locales and eras through an exploration of music and extra-musical components.

Performing: **MU:Pr6.1.5a-WI -** Perform music alone or with others, with expression, technical accuracy, and appropriate interpretation.

*Question - "What do you think of when you hear the word "Chant"?
Examples of Chant (secular & sacred)
Marine Corp's Cadence (call & response) -
https://youtube.com/shorts/Oi_q2xFdPdY?si=At6oC5oAg_7q24I5
*How to Start a Stadium Chant -
https://youtu.be/XntGdd4qvXw?si=EtRauXVFdrL74unW
*Sacred Chant from Jewish Tradition - Shema Y'israel - "The Lord is God, the Lord is one"
(It is said for Morning and Evening Prayer and Jesus would have prayed this prayer)
https://youtu.be/qm1ShHOVbog?si=9wqLC9hKG2LlZG0n (Stop at 1:24)

*Question - "But, what is Gregorian chant?"
*YouTube video Short -History of Gregorian Chant (SonusSanctus) -ends "Elevates the Faithful" *(After watching, review with the students what was said in the video)*
https://youtube.com/shorts/7A5vNBF032s?si=7uE5-lXy3JFng8W2 *(1min)*
*Gregorian Chant *(Western rite)* - Monks sing Gregorian Chant *(Stop anywhere from 1min to 3)* https://youtu.be/CBwh1OXw6uI?si=QFtkU3n8aGlAyC8e

*Question - "So how do we learn how to chant? *(Practice scales using "ooh" and "aah")*
Let's start with singing a scale - (C scale - "do, re, mi") using the Ooh sound
(Teachers - an excellent example of children chanting the Ave Maria)
https://youtu.be/GFC1GekK1Jg?si=jCCbMldDQfIU3oPx

**TEACHER:* *Sacred Music is set aside for prayer. When chanting, we are singing our prayers and not performing. You can adapt or adjust to any written text. It is not bound to time signatures. It is a free rhythm. We are going to learn 2 chants, an Entrance Chant and Communion Chant. These are sung as Responsorial Psalms, which are a collection of songs and poems from the Old Testament in the bible.You help lead the Refrain, which the people will sing with you in response.*

A cantor (singer) will sing the verse and then you return to the Response. These are in English but the Church still uses the Latin language, since between the 3rd & 4th centuries. Latin is the universal language of the Church but liturgy can also be spoken or sung in the local language.

The teacher hands out the Entrance/Introit Chant and reads the refrain. Students will then read the refrain. The Teacher then demonstrates, with hand motions, the movement of the notes.
On the vowel sound of "ooh", the teacher will demonstrate, by singing and using hand motion "This is my beloved Son". Using a form of Call and Response, the teacher will chant the words, in groups. Students will repeat, in group form. After a couple of practices, the teacher will lead as the students sing the entire response. *(The teacher could take the role of the cantor on the verses so the kids could practice leading the response.)*

The teacher will repeat the same method for the Communion Chant.
Performance Assessment:
Teachers can assess with singers chanting alone, in small groups or the whole choir.

Connecting Assessment:
Students can take this initial Exit Ticket to review what was learned and discussed during the lesson. In addition, the student can write a reflection after they have had a chance to chant during Mass.

Exit Ticket:

1. What is the difference between a chant that you hear at a sporting event and the chant you hear at Mass?

2. When you are chanting during Mass, are you performing? Why or Why not?

3. What is a Responsorial Psalm and why is it called that?

4. Name one other thing you learned about chant in this lesson.