Tone for Chanting Psalms

Singing everything on one pitch:

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindess;  in your compassion, blot out my offense.

Raising the voice by a tone (whole step, like do to re) can emphasize a word:

Have mer-cy on me, O God, in your kind-ness;  in your com-pass-ion, blot out my of-fense.

or:

Have mer-cy on me, O God, in your kind-ness;  in your com-pass-ion, blot out my of-fense.

You can also jump up a fourth ("Here comes the the bride") to an accent:

Have mer-cy on me, O God, in your kind-ness;

or:

in your com-pass-ion, blot out my of-fense.

Combining those two patterns can give a balanced, clear reading that mostly stays on one pitch.

We often call this, "straight chanting."
Tone for Chanting Readings

**la** means we have reached the middle

**ti** means we are going on

This is repeated as many times as needed, and then we end with:

**so** means we are coming to the end

and we work our way up to the conclusion on **do**.

Different sorts of endings: