

# The Collegeville Chant Psalter

for Sunday, Solemnities, and Major Feast Days

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# FOREWORD

This collection offers simple chanted settings of the Responsorial Psalm for every Sunday and major feast day of the liturgical year. Responsorial Psalms in this style were first conceived for unaccompanied singing led by a single cantor at daily Mass at Saint John's Abbey. But for those who desire it, keyboard accompaniments are provided in this collection.

These settings are text-based in every respect, intentionally simple and unornamented. The refrain melodies are only slightly more than inflected speech, with primary scale degrees bringing out the natural accentuation of the text, and infrequent two-note groups highlighting important words or defining syntactical units. The melodic settings are in the eight Gregorian chant modes as found in the psalm tones of Saint Meinrad's Archabbey. Type melodies, one for each mode, are employed repeatedly for varying antiphon texts, making it easier for cantor and congregation to pick up the refrain melodies over time. The Saint Meinrad's psalm tones are used not only for their simple beauty, but especially because they are well suited to the rhythm and accentuation of the English language. Attention is drawn to the pointing. The first word or syllable to leave the reciting note is indicated by underlining.

To the singer: It is important to remember that these settings are speech-based. They must not drag or be turned into a metrical setting. Singers should follow the natural accentuation of spoken English. The singer might find it helpful first to recite the text of the refrain and verses, and then to sing them with approximately the same rhythm and tempo. To proclaim the psalm verses effectively, the singer should become as familiar as possible with the modal melodies of the eight psalm tones, committing them to memory if possible. Before singing the melody of the refrain, it is suggested that the singer first internalize the melody of the psalm tone, since the refrain melodies are based upon and grow out of the psalm tone formulas.

To the keyboard player: It is important to vary the volume between refrain and verses, playing more loudly to stimulate and support the congregation, but playing as quietly as possible for the verses, while still offering necessary support to the cantor, so as to allow the text of the verses to be heard clearly. As much as possible, the accompaniment for the psalm tone should be committed to memory so that one can follow and support the cantor without delay or hesitation. It is advisable to memorize the first chord of the antiphon as well so that the transition from verse to antiphon can be made smoothly. Some organists might wish to help the congregation by soloing out the antiphon melody with a louder registration on a separate manual.

Piano players should account for the fact that the piano is percussive and does not sustain sounds like the organ. In order to provide continuous support, chords should be repeated more often than is written. For both refrain and verses, such repetition should occur on accented syllables. Especially on the verses, the reiteration of chords might take the form of gentle arpeggiation.

Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB  
Saint John's Abbey  
Holy Thursday, April 18, 2019



# Psalm 1

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Bless-ed are they who hope in the Lord.

## Psalm Tone

Mode 2

[A] [B] [C] [D] [E] [F]

*Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6. R/ 40:5a*

1. Blessed the man who follows not  
the counsel of the wicked,  
nor walks in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
but delights in the law of the LORD  
and meditates on his law day and night. *R/*
2. He is like a tree  
planted near running water,  
that yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade.  
*[omit E]*  
Whatever he does, prospers. *R/*
3. Not so the wicked, not so;  
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,  
*[omit D, E]*  
but the way of the wicked vanishes. *R/*

# Psalm 4

3rd Sunday of Easter, Year B

Lord, let your face shine on us.

3rd Sunday of Easter, Year B, *alternate response*

Al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalm Tone

*Mode 2*

[A] [B] [C]

*Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9. R/ v. 7a*

1. When I call, answer me, O my just God,  
you who relieve me when I am in distress;  
have pity on me, and hear my prayer! *R/*
2. Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one;  
*[omit B]*  
the LORD will hear me when I call upon him. *R/*
3. O LORD, let the light of your countenance  
shine upon us!  
*[omit B]*  
You put gladness into my heart. *R/*
4. As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,  
for you alone, O LORD,  
bring security to my dwelling. *R/*

# Psalm 8

Trinity Sunday, Year C

O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

## Psalm Tone

Mode 8

*Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9. R/ v. 2a*

1. When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars which you set in place —  
what is man that you should be mindful of him,  
or the son of man that you should care for him? *R/*
2. You have made him little less than the angels,  
and crowned him with glory and honor.  
You have given him rule over the works of your hands,  
putting all things under his feet. *R/*
3. All sheep and oxen,  
yes, and the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea,  
and whatever swims the paths of the seas. *R/*

# Psalm 15

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

\* The one who does jus - tice will live in the pres - ence of the Lord.

*\* Some editions of the Lectionary begin this response "One who does justice..."*

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

He who does jus - tice will live in the pres - ence of the Lord.

## Psalm Tone

Mode 7

[A]                      [B]                      [C]                      [D]

*Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5. R/ v. 1a*

**22 OT B only**

1. Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice;  
who thinks the truth in his heart  
*[omit C]*  
and slanders not with his tongue. *R/*
2. Who harms not his fellow man,  
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;  
by whom the reprobate is despised,  
while he honors those who fear the LORD. *R/*
3. Who lends not his money at usury  
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.  
Whoever does these things  
shall never be disturbed. *R/*

**16 OT C only**

- 1a. One who walks blamelessly and does justice;  
who thinks the truth in his heart  
*[omit C]*  
and slanders not with his tongue. *R/*