

The Psalms of the New Hymnal and Psalter
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Poll Everywhere: What questions are on your mind today about psalms in the new hymnal and psalter?

Who is on the Psalm Committee?

- Paul Prange, chairman
- Daniel Witte, secretary, Hebrew scholar
- Grace Wessel, MLC music professor, teach the future teachers/generations the psalms
- Adrian Smith, MLC music professor, teach the future teachers/generations the psalms
- Sam Hacker, small church pastor
- Amy Hansel, small church organist
- Dale Witte, composer, MCM '97 CURF thesis annotated index of 1,400 psalms
- Bill Tackmeier, WLS prof, writer of psalm prayers

Understanding the Psalm Committee process:

- Collect and scan to Google Drive all the settings of psalms in our personal libraries
- Find other current hymnals, psalters, octavos, and other psalm collections from church music publishers, scan, add to Google Drive
- Review and vote on all hymnal psalms first on Tracker
- Review and vote on all psalter psalms second on Tracker
- Discuss pertinent psalmody issues on Basecamp to archive discussions, thoughts, and decisions
- One psalm a week since 2014 (but in multiple musical settings)
- Reviews of all 150 psalms will be completed by mid August 2019
- Around 4,500 settings reviewed to date
- Our votes get set to the Executive Committee (XC) to be ratified. They have the power to ratify, change, reject, or propose new settings to the PC.

What is the goal of the Psalm Committee for the new hymnal psalms?

- To provide style variety in Psalmody
- To continue to encourage the singing of psalmody
- Many like CW psalms. Some in other styles. (get more specific stats)
- Only those psalms appointed in the lectionary
- The psalm section will be about the same number of pages as CW
- All new hymnal psalms will also be in the new Psalter
- The congregation sings the psalm, not just the refrain
 - This is not what the 1993 CW expected
 - This is not what the larger Christian Church expects
 - This is an unintended blessing of 1993 CW psalmody

What styles of psalmody are represented in the new hymnal?

- Responsorial chant: 59
- Metrical: 9
- Responsorial Lyrical: 3
- Anglican: 1
- Cf. [Psalmody Terminology](#)

What are the goals of the new WELS Psalter?

- To provide even more musical variety for the hymnal/lectionary psalms
- All hymnal psalms will also be reprinted in the psalter as the “A” version. Additional selections will be B, C, D, etc.
- All 150 psalms in multiple musical styles, including the complete text of every psalm for reading and pointed for singing in NIV 2011.
- To promote the personal, devotional use of the psalms.
- Gleaned was the best of the best from major church music publishers and individual composers.
- Psalm prayers for all psalms
- Short orders of worship centered on the psalms
- Table of alternate psalm appointments for the hymnal psalms
- Daily Psalter chart
- Pertinent Indices

What styles of psalms will there be in psalter?

- Responsorial Chant (in all its various forms)
 - Sometimes different cadence lengths (one note, two notes, or three notes)
 - Sometimes multiple syllables on the final note of a cadence
- Metrical
- Responsorial Lyrical
- Gelineau
 - Read “A Guide to Gelineau Psalmody”
 - Watch Gelineau Psalmody Demonstration Video
- Song/Getty psalms
- Guitar
- Anglican
- Twelve Point chant?

[Musical Examples](#)

Responsorial Chant:

- The King of Glory Comes (Hymnal 24A) refrain intro
- I Will Praise (Psalter 30C) *Cry Out with Joy* tone [recording](#)
- Call Upon Me (Psalter 50B) one note cadences
- Be Merciful, O Lord (Hymnal 51A) ABCD psalm tone patterns

Gelineau: Lord, You Have the Words (Psalter 19J) [recording](#)

Getty: May the Peoples Praise You (Psalter 67F) [Youtube](#)

Responsorial Lyrical

- Praise in the Heights (Psalter 148B) | [Vimeo](#)
- Cry Out to the Lord (Hymnal 66A) | [recording](#)

Responsorial Lyrical & Chant

- Why Does Such Grief Weigh Down My Soul? (Psalter 42C/42D) [recording](#)
- In My Day of Fear (Psalter 56A/56B)

Guitar: I'll Not Be Shaken (Psalter 62D) [Youtube](#)

Metrical Paraphrase

- As the Deer (Hymnal 42A)
- I Need Your Help, O Lord My God (Psalter 55B)
- God, Save Me From This Onslaught (Psalter 59B)
- I Will Exalt My God and King (Hymnal 145A)

Poll Everywhere: What was your favorite psalm setting today?

Introduction of New Psalms (make this your pattern)

- The accompanist should play the refrain through once (not the tone), followed by...
- A cantor or choir singing the refrain once for the congregation to hear how it goes (you did print the music for them, either in the hymnal, bulletin, psalter, or projection?), immediately followed by...
- The congregation singing the refrain.
- If the tone is new, the choir or cantor should sing at least one whole verse of the tone before the congregation is asked to join in singing the tone or the remaining verses.
- Feel free to assign the verse after the refrain to the choir or cantor if the setting is new, then bring in the congregation on the remaining verses before the next refrain.

Issues in Chanting Performance

Speed of chanting

- Chanting is sung speech. Don't drag out any part of the chant
- Say the text, then sing the text to get a feel for how fast the chant can go.
- Use a cantor or choir to model how quickly to sing chanted verses. Have the cantor or choir continue to sing with the congregation do keep them at a consistent chanting speed.

- If the pastor is not a good model chanter, don't mic him during the psalm

Psalm Accompaniment Techniques - organ vs piano

Organ Registration

- Refrain on Great, Tone/Verses on Swell or Choir reflecting the style and mood of the psalm text
- The tone registration should only be loud enough to support singing, but not so loud as to drown out singing. The congregation must be able to hear each other chant the verses in order to stay together.
- The refrain registration should be in contrast to the tone registration, and usually louder to promote stronger singing.

Piano Accompaniment of Responsorial Psalmody Chant

- Rolling the reciting tone chords from low to high to imitate a strummed guitar or harp. It also helps the top note be heard separately.
- Anticipate the cadences and help the congregation not slow down by leading them, not following them.
- Consider varying the octave of chant accompaniment for variety during the verses or Gloria Patri.

Issues in Projection of Responsorial Psalmody

- Always project the music - someone will not know it or know where to find it quickly
- Refrain on a slide by itself
- Psalm tone music (single treble staff) at top of verse slides, words changing underneath
- Marking the cadence - pipe vs. hyphen vs. underline
- PNG or TIFF graphics of refrain and psalm tone by itself, fitting 4:3 projection, transparent background, in both white and black ([Finale v26](#) can do this)

What will the new psalter not include? (Does any of this disappoint?)

- Choral settings
- Many, if any guitar settings
- Settings which cannot be performed either by cantor or congregation

Things I don't know:

- The final look and feel of the psalter or the hymnal psalms
- What resources will be included in the Musician's Resources for the psalms (the plan is for anything and everything you'd need to accompany any particular setting – instrumental parts, etc.)
- The exact number of pages in the Psalter or what other indices and resources will be included in the psalter. Things the PC has discussed:
 - orders of service that promote psalmody
 - Daily psalm reading/singing plans

- Alternate psalm appointments for the lectionary to promote variety
 - Psalm prayers for every psalm
- Will there be any future psalter volumes (Choral psalter, Guitar psalter, Children's psalter, etc.)
- Electronic resources of the psalms
- Copyrights, royalties, licensing