

THE COMPLETE  
RESPONSORIAL  
PSALTER

YEARS A, B and C



Psalms for Sundays and Feasts  
for the three-year lectionary cycle

Edited by Stephen Dean



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*For details of feasts which are not given in the contents for year B and year C, please refer to year A*

## FOREWORD TO THE NEW EDITION

The idea of this book is twofold.

The first concern is to allow those who have used the *Responsorial Psalter* at any time since the first appearance of Year B in 1987 to continue to do so.

Changes in the contents of the book have been kept to the minimum. Misprints in the original three separate volumes have, it is hoped, been eliminated. Guitar chords have been added both to the responses and the psalmtones. A small number of responses, judged to be too difficult or of little value, have been removed. There are also additions: some alternative settings have been introduced, and some settings with through-composed verses, as opposed to psalm tones, have been added. The criterion for inclusion in this section is that the piece should be capable of being sung by the cantor, who is seen as the main user of this book.

### The Grail Inclusive Language psalm translation

The second feature of this new edition is the incorporation of the text of the Inclusive Language version (1993) of the Grail psalter, the first major modification to this translation of the psalms. The subject of inclusive language provokes strong feelings on both sides, but the momentum towards its adoption is unmistakeable. The Inclusive Language version of the Grail psalter has been approved for liturgical use in England and Wales, and it would have been wrong not to take the opportunity of introducing it in this edition.

For people who wish to continue using the former edition of the *Responsorial*

*Psalter*, however, this one has been made as far possible compatible with it. The previous version of the text has therefore been retained with the Inclusive Language version added in parallel, the verses being numbered 1b, 2b etc. When differences are minimal, involving perhaps only one word (*God's* instead of *his*) this has been registered by means of a marginal note.

The *Responsorial Psalter* has been appreciated by cantors for ten years. Its predecessor, *Psalms for Sundays*, appeared a decade before that. Some of the music in this book, particularly the psalm tones of Dean Gregory Murray, has proved its durability many times over.

The Responsorial Psalm is one of the great treasures of the liturgical renewal set in motion by the 2nd Vatican Council. The psalm response is very often the key to the Liturgy of the Word, and to put these words on the lips of the worshipping people, by means of a musical response that can be easily picked up and remembered after the mass is over, is one of the great challenges of the liturgical composer. The acceptance of the *Responsorial Psalter* makes one hope that it meets this challenge. This new edition is offered with the intention of serving the people of God for many years to come.

# Notes on Singing the Psalms

Two kinds of psalm-tone are used in *The Responsorial Psalter*.

In the first kind, each line has a long reciting note with an inflection at the end:

(Eii)



My soul, give praise to the Lord, all my being, bless his ho - ly name.

The change of note is shown in the text by underlinings.

## Irregular tones

Normally the inflection has two black notes, but psalm tones D(iii) (e.g. p.9) and 1(iii) (e.g. p10) have three in some lines. The change of note in these lines is shown by an accent in the text. Sometimes the syllable in question is best sung over two notes rather than one; this happens where the accent coincides with an underlining (e.g. stanza 2 on p.9).

## Gelineau psalmody

The second kind is usually known as Gelineau psalmody and is based on the stresses of Hebrew poetry, of which there are two, three or occasionally four in one line. The tones of this kind are: A(ii), I(iv), I(v), J(ii), J(iv), K, L and M. In this kind of psalm tone the note changes two or three times in each line to correspond with the stress; the psalm is sung more rhythmically, with a regular pulse, the syllables being fitted in as appropriate:

(L)



I re - jôiced when I héard them sáy: 'Let us gó to God's hóuse.'

The change of note is shown in the text by accents. Most lines have some unaccented syllables, up to three, before the first main accent. These words are sung to the black note that begins each line. If there are no syllables of this kind, this note is missed out and the singer starts with the first white note, although the accompaniment is played as usual.

## Choosing a Psalm Tone

Under each Response the melody line of a psalm-tone is given, with its reference number. If you wish, you can choose another psalm tone from the Supplement so long as it is from the same group (A, B, C etc).

## Gospel Acclamations

Melodies for the Alleluia and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations are also to be found in the Supplement, together with special two-line tones for the verses (printed in the main book for each Mass). Very occasionally the verse is longer than two lines and so the tone will have to be sung twice. In Lent, the Lectionary prints out an Acclamation refrain for each day, which you will find in the Parish Mass Book or Missal, but you are free to choose another one if you wish.

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Psalm 121(122):1-2. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 R.v.1

I re - joiced when I heard them say "Let us go to \*—God's —house." SD

G G/B Am7 Dsus<sup>4</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G Am<sup>7</sup> D G

\* or: "go to the house of the Lord."

C(ii)

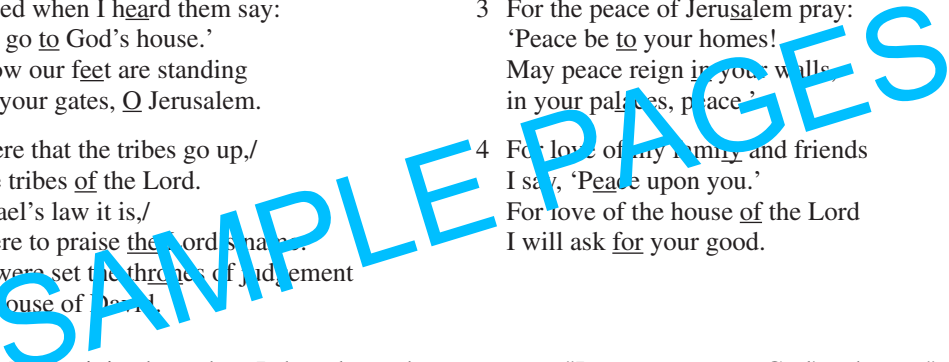
G C G/B Em7 Am D G/B C G/B Am D G

1 I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
 'Let us go to God's house.'  
 And now our feet are standing  
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.

2 It is there that the tribes go up,  
 the tribes of the Lord.  
 For Israel's law it is,  
 there to praise the word of the Lord.  
 There were set the thrones of judgment  
 of the house of the Lord.

3 For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
 'Peace be to your homes!  
 May peace reign in your walls  
 in your palaces, peace.'

4 For love of my family and friends  
 I say, 'Peace upon you.'  
 For love of the house of the Lord  
 I will ask for your good.



I re - joiced when I heard — them say: "Let us go to God's house." FO'C

G<sup>7</sup> C G/B Am G/B C Dm C/E F C

I(ii)

C Am Gsus<sup>4</sup> Em7 Dm G C F C Dm G

Alternative response: p.212

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 84(85): 8

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
 and give us your saving help.

# CHRISTMAS

## Midnight Mass

*Psalm 95(96):1-2a. 2b-3. 11-13b. 13cd. R. Luke 2:11*

To - day a Sa - viour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord. ——— SD

D7 G/B Em Am7 Bm Em Am Bm Am7 D7 G

Lörd (v.3) SD

C(iv)

G Bm7 Em7 Bm Bm/D Em Bm7 Em7 Am D

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth. (omit bar 3)  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.
- 2 Proclaim God's help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory (omit bar 3)  
and his wonders among all the peoples.
- 3 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it occupy rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy/  
at the presence of the Lörd who comes,  
who comes to rule the earth.
- 4 With justice he will rule the world, (omit bars 2 & 3)  
and will judge the peoples with truth.

Fanfare \* To - day a Sa - viour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord. JMCC

\* optional after first time G Am D7 G C Am D G

AGM

C(i)

G D D Bm G D Am G

A further setting: see p.100

## Gospel Acclamation

*Luke 2: 10-11*

I bring you news of great joy:  
today a Saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.



# CHRISTMAS: Mass During the Day

*Psalm 97(98):1.2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. R.v.3*

All the ends of the earth have seen — the sal - va - tion of our God.

D Em<sup>11</sup> D Em<sup>7</sup> D F# Bm F#7 G A D

D Bm Bm/D F#m D G A D

- |  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| <p>1 Sing a new song <u>to</u> the Lord<br/>for he <u>has</u> worked wonders;<br/>his right hand and his <u>holy</u> arm<br/>have <u>brought</u> salvation.</p> <p>2 The Lord has made known <u>his</u> salvation;<br/>has shown his justice <u>to</u> the nations;<br/>He has remembered his <u>truth</u> and love<br/>for the <u>house</u> of Israel.</p> <p>3 All the ends of the earth have seen<br/>the <u>salvation</u> of our God.<br/>Shout to the Lord, <u>all</u> the earth,<br/>ring <u>out</u> your joy.</p> | <p>or</p> | <p>1b Sing a new song <u>to</u> the Lord<br/>who <u>has</u> worked wonders;<br/>whose right hand and <u>holy</u> arm<br/>have <u>brought</u> salvation.</p> <p>2b The Lord has made <u>known</u> salvation,<br/>has shown justice <u>to</u> the nations,<br/>has remembered <u>truth</u> and love<br/>for the <u>house</u> of Israel.</p> <p>4 Sing psalms to the Lord <u>with</u> the harp with<br/>the <u>sound</u> of music.<br/>With trumpets and the sound <u>of</u> the horn<br/>acclaim the <u>King</u>, the Lord.</p> |
|--|-----------|---|

All the ends of the earth have seen the sal - va - tion of — our God.

G Am Em Am D Em

Em Am Am Bm G Am Bm7 Em

## Gospel Acclamation

A hallowed day has dawned upon us./  
Come you nations, worship the Lord,  
for today a great light has shown upon the earth.

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Psalm 117(118):2-4. 13-15. 22-24 R.v.1*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

JJ

Em Am Dm Bm Em D

AGM

C(i)

G D D Bm G D Am G

- 1 Let the sons of Israel say:/ 'His love has no end.'  
 Let the sons of Aaron say:/ 'His love has no end.'  
 Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'
- or 1b Let the family of Israel say:/ 'God's love endures for ever.'  
 Let the family of Aaron say: 'God's love endures for ever.'  
 Let those who fear the Lord say: 'God's love endures for ever.'
- 2 I was thrust down, thrust down and falling, / but the Lord was my helper  
 The Lord is my strength and my song,  
 and has been my saviour.  
 There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just.
- 3 The stone which the builders rejected / has become the corner stone.  
 This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes.  
 This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

SD

D G F#m B Em A7 D

AGM

E(i)

D Bm Bm/D F#m D G A D

## Gospel Acclamation

*John 20:29*

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.  
 Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Psalm 39(40)2,4. 7-8. 9.10 R.vv.8-9*

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will. PI

(Capo 1) D G<sup>6</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G F<sup>#m</sup>

(Capo 1) Em D Em D Em Bm7 D

- 1 I waited, I waited for the Lord/  
and he stooped down to me,  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth  
praise of our God.
- or 1b I waited, I waited for the Lord/  
who stooped down to me,  
and heard my cry.  
God put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God.
- 2 You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I.
- 3 In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart.
- 4 Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord.

*Alternative setting: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, p.122*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Luke 19:38*

Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

*or John 1:14.12*

The Word was made flesh and lived among us;  
to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.

# CHRISTMAS

## Midnight Mass

*Psalm 95(96):1-2a. 2b-3. 11-13b. 13cd. R. Luke 2:11*

To - day a sav - iour has been born to us: He is Christ — the Lord. FO'C

F G F C F C Em F Dm<sup>7</sup> G C

(iii) SD

C Cmaj<sup>7</sup> Em Dm<sup>6</sup> Am/G Dm<sup>7</sup> Em Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth. (omit bar 3)  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name
- 2 Pro - claim God's help day by day,  
tell among the na - tions his glory (omit bar 3)  
and his wonders among all the peoples.
- 3 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy/  
at the presence of the Lord who comes,  
who comes to rule the earth.
- 4 With justice he will rule the world, (omit bar 2 & 3)  
and will judge the peoples with truth.

*Other settings; See Year A, p.13*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Luke 2: 10-11*

I bring you news of great joy:  
today a Saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

## CHRISTMAS Mass During the Day

*Psalm 97(98):1.2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. R.v.3*  
*See p. 14*

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ps 79(80) 2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R.v.4

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on — us and we shall be saved.

(Capo 3) Em G Bm G Em C Am G Am G D Em

A(i)

Gm Gm Gm F F Cm Cm Gm

Accents are for use with the second setting.

- 1 O shépherd of Ísrael, héar us, shine fóρθ from your chérubim thróne. O Lórd, róuse up your míght, O Lórd, cóme to our hélp.
- 2 Gód of hosts, turn agáin, we implóre look dówn from héaven and sée. Vísit this vine and prótect it, the víne your ríght hánd has plánted.
- 3 May your hánd be on the mán you have chosen, *or* 3b May your hánd be on the óne you have chosen, the mán you have gíven your stréngth. the óne you have gíven your stréngth. And we shall néver forsáke you agáin; And we shall néver forsáke you agáin; give us lífe that we may cáll upon your náme. give us lífe that we may cáll upon your náme.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

(Capo 3) Em Em7 C Bm Em Bm Em

A(ii)

Capo 3 Em Bm Em D Bm Em Bm Em Bm

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.

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