

The Psalter and the Book of Common Prayer (Canada 1962)

All we Christian people are indeed duty-bound to give great and undying thanks to the holy prophet David who so diligently left us in writing his most devout psalms for us and our posterity to read. And he did so, it seems to me, chiefly for three reasons: first, that the minds of sinners might be raised up and excited by these holy psalms, as by a sweet melody, to receive and grasp the study and learning of virtues; secondly, that if any man or woman had fallen into great and abominable sins, they should not despair but put their entire and steadfast hope of forgiveness in God; thirdly, that they might use these holy psalms as letters of supplication and efficacious prayers to obtain the remission and forgiveness of sins from almighty God.

Saint John Fisher, *Exposition of the Seven Penitential Psalms*
Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 1998, page 73

Psalms in the Book of Common Prayer

The recommended usage of Psalms for Morning and Evening Prayer is described on pages xlix-lv of the *Book of Common Prayer* (Canada 1962) in “The Order How the Psalter is Appointed to be Read”.

Lectionaries list extracts of Scripture appointed to be read in worship and have been used in the Church since the 4th century.

You can recite Psalms according to Cathedral Usage (daily selections provided for use with Morning and Evening Prayer on Sundays, holy days, and ordinary weekdays) or Monastic Usage (the thirty-day cycle of sequential readings in which the Psalter of the *Book of Common Prayer* is divided).

You can also pray Psalms by themselves or as part of personal, extemporaneous prayer.

Psalm Readings: Cathedral Usage

The Prayer Book provides several lectionary courses in which the reading of specific Psalms is coordinated with scripture readings assigned for Morning and Evening Prayer.

The lectionary “Psalms and Lessons Proper for Special Occasions” (page xlvi) prescribes specific morning and evening psalm and scripture readings for such special occasions as national days, commemorations of the faithful departed, and dedication festivals.

The lectionary “Psalms to Be Used on Sundays and Holy-Days” (pages l-liv) prescribes specific morning and evening psalms for each Sunday based on the liturgical kalendar – starting the church year with the First Sunday of Advent through the Sunday Next Before Advent of the following year. It also lists psalms for use on prayer book holy days, optional psalm usages at the Eucharist, and psalms to use on the thirty-first days of a month.

Finally, page lv features “A Table of Psalms Which May Be Used on Ordinary Weekdays.”

Psalm Readings: Monastic Usage

This table of readings follows the thirty-day cycle into which the Psalter is divided for the *Book of Common Prayer*, pages 331-521.

Day	Morning Psalms	Evening Psalms
1	1-5	6-8
2	9-11	12-14
3	15-17	18
4	19-21	22-23
5	24-26	27-29
6	30-31	32-34
7	35-36	37
8	38-40	41-43
9	44-46	47-49
10	50-52	53-55
11	56-58	59-61
12	62-64	65-67
13	68	69-70
14	71-72	73-74
15	75-77	78
16	79-81	82-85
17	86-88	89
18	90-92	93-94
19	95-97	98-101
20	102-103	104
21	105	106
22	107	108-109
23	110-113	114-115
24	116-118	119:1-32
25	119:33-72	119:73-104
26	119:105-144	119:145-176
27	120-125	126-131
28	132-135	136-138
29	139-140	141-143
30	144-146	147-150