

## CONCERNING THE PSALTER

The Coverdale Psalter of 1535 (employed with every Prayer Book from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries) is one of the timeless treasures of the *Book of Common Prayer*. It has here been printed according to the revision produced for the 1928 American Prayer Book.

Recitation of the Psalms is central to daily worship throughout the Christian Tradition. Anglicanism at the time of the Reformation established that the entire Psalter should be read in the Daily Office every month. This one-month cycle is indicated within the Psalter itself. Contemporary practice sometimes lessens the number of daily psalms, so a sixty-day cycle is also printed alongside the readings in the Daily Office Lectionary on pages 738-763.

When recited in the Office, the Gloria Patri (Glory be...) may be said after each psalm, or at the conclusion of all the psalms of the Office. The Gloria Patri is not customarily said after a psalm in the Eucharist.

The manner of recitation of the psalms can be adapted to the size of the Congregation and physical setting: responsive (between leader and people), antiphonal (alternating sides of the Congregation), or in unison, and by whole or half verse. For purposes of reflective pause, half-verse recitation, or musical chant, the asterisk (\*) printed in each verse indicates the place where the verse divides.

The numbering of verses in the Coverdale Psalter in certain psalms may differ from the numbering found in other translations.