

# LATIN PSALTERS AND GREGORIAN CHANT

- Various old versions in Latin from 2<sup>nd</sup> century on.
- Roman Psalter (*Psalterium Romanum*)– formerly ascribed to St. Jerome, 4<sup>th</sup> century. Used widely in Italy in early Middle Ages. Used in St. Peter’s Basilica until Vatican II.
- Gallican Psalter (*Psalterium Gallicanum*) – translated by St. Jerome, 4<sup>th</sup> century. Imposed on entire Gallican regions in Carolingian times (hence the name); included in the Vulgate Bible. Eventually the psalter of entire Western church (except St. Peter’s).
- Hebrew Psalter (*Psalterium iuxta Hebraeos*) – translated by St. Jerome, 4<sup>th</sup> century, directly from the Hebrew text (rather than the Greek Septuagint translation). Never became widely used, although it was probably his highest quality and most accurate translation.

*Note: some medieval Bibles have any of the above three psalters, or even include all three together.*

- 1945 Psalter issued under Pope Pius XII – hence called *Pian Psalter* or *Psalterium Pianum*. Translated directly from Hebrew. Radical rejection of ecclesiastical Latin vocabulary in favor of “classical” Latin. Made optional for recitation of Roman office by clergy.
- 1969 Psalter completed at directive of Second Vatican Council. Taken into 1979 *Vulgata Nova* (New Vulgate) with very slight alterations. Restores ecclesiastical Latin vocabulary (and thus completely rejects the approach of the 1945 *Pian Psalter*). Corrects Gallican Psalter only when called for by Hebrew text, otherwise it is quite similar with it. Published as separate volume (*Liber psalmorum*, 1969). Text is found in *Psalterium Monasticum* (Solesmes, 1981) with accent marks for liturgical use.

Gregorian Chant Mass Proper antiphons: generally from the Roman Psalter, but sometimes from various old versions. Each of these psalters was often copied, sometimes with errors and variations, so it is not always easy to determine which Psalter was the basis for a Mass proper. Furthermore, the text used may have been altered, sometimes quite extensively, by the composer of the Mass proper.

Verses of Mass Propers (i.e., Introit) in modern books: from the Gallican Psalter. The psalter used in the modern chant books does not always coincide with the psalter version used in the early notated manuscripts, and thus the *Graduale Triplex* sometimes indicates variant verse wording when the early neumes are given for the psalm verse(s).