

Psalms ~ Psalms in Worship

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The Psalms were written to be used in worship, mainly to be sung.
More than a third are addressed to the "Director of Music".

Look in a Bible and see if you can find three of them. Write their numbers here:

Psalm _____ Psalm _____ Psalm _____

Some psalms also give instructions on what instruments should be used.

Which instruments are suggested for the following Psalms?

Psalm 4 _____

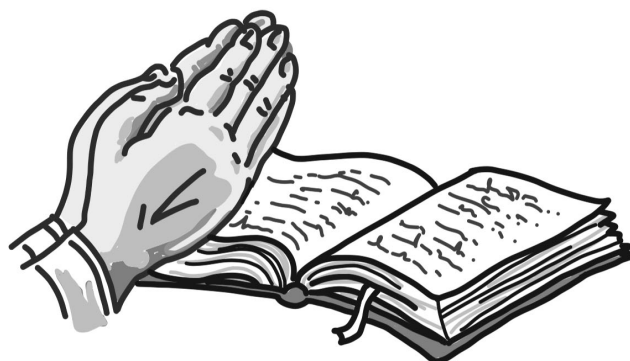
Psalm 5 _____

Many psalms also encourage people to sing. **Copy the first verse of Psalm 96.**

PSALMS IN ANGLICAN WORSHIP

Psalms are used every day in different kinds of Anglican church services.

They are used in morning and evening prayer, in Eucharist services, in baptisms, funerals, memorials and more. The book of Psalms is included in Anglican Prayer books.



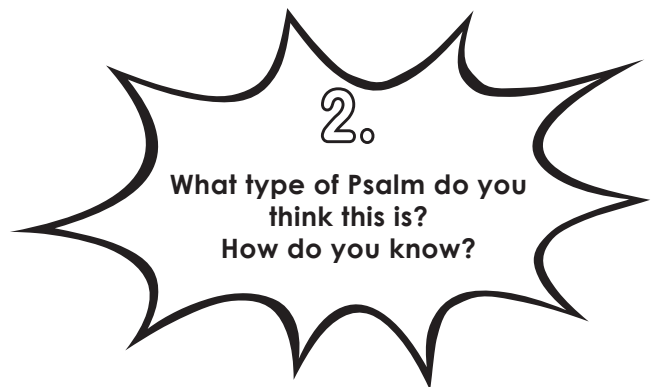
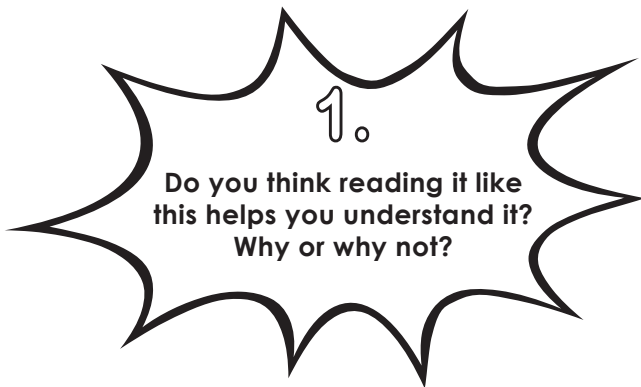
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In worship services with a choir or music leader the Psalm is often sung. If there is no choir, the Psalm can be read out loud in different ways. Here are 3 of the most common ways:

1. A solo reader reads the whole Psalm.
2. A reader leads the Psalm - they read the odd verses, the congregation say with the even verses.
3. A reader reads the first part of the verse (up to the colon) then the congregation says the second half of the verse.

With your class, look in an Anglican Prayer Book. Look at a Holy Communion service. When is the psalm said or sung? (Before and after what?)

Find the book of psalms in the Prayer Book. Find Psalm 95. As a class, have a go at reading verses 1-7 in a couple of the different ways mentioned. Discuss...



SINGING THE PSALMS

The psalms are sung in churches all over the world – in many different styles.

Listen to some traditional Anglican church choirs singing psalms.

Describe the musical style of these psalms (e.g. loud/soft; fast/slow; kind of beat etc)

How might this musical style help people worship God? (What would it make them feel, think about? How could it help them think about the words of the psalms?)

