

THE PSALTER, OFFICIAL PRAYERBOOK OF THE CHURCH

Note how the four chants of today's Mass use the first person : indeed, it is Christ who is lamenting and suffering, but by singing them with our own throats and lips we unite ourselves to him, or, as members of his Body, lament with him ! Cardinal Schuster writes : When the Church desires to express the inward feelings of the Savior as he approaches his sacred Passion, she uses the Psalter, her official prayerbook. The Gospels give a summary of the life and teaching of Jesus, but the Psalms of David lead us into his soul and reveal his virtues, the impulses of his heart, his battles, his fears, and his ineffable love which united him to his Father.

During his whole life our Savior used words from the Psalms when he prayed to his Father ; on the Cross Psalm 21 strengthened him in his death agony. We may even call the Psalter the book from which the eternal High-Priest prayed when he offered his mortal life as a holocaust to his Father. It should be our task then to study zealously the spirit of the Psalms, for through them we will come to know the soul of Christ.

