

# Why We Sing the Psalms

- The Psalms are the **Word of God**, breathed out by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3.16-17).
- The Psalms prophetically **speak of Christ, his life and his work** (for example, Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 24, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41, 45, 47, 68, 69, 89, 102, 109, 110, 118; Luke 20.42; 24.44).
- The Psalms are **quoted in the New Testament** more than any other Old Testament book.
- **Jesus sang the Psalms** (Matthew 26.30; from the *Hallel* portion of the Psalter, Psalms 113-118).
- The **Apostles tell us to sing the Psalms**, in their various named forms (1 Corinthians 14.15, 26; Ephesians 5.19; Colossians 3.16; James 5.13).
- The Psalms are the **words of Christ and Spirit filling** (Colossians 3.16).
- The Psalms are **profitable for teaching, admonishing, and giving thanks to God** (Colossians 3.16; 2 Timothy 3.16-17).
- Singing the Psalms is **pure praise-worship**, in Spirit and truth, that **pleases God** (John 4.23-24; Hebrews 12.28; 13.15).
- The **New Testament Church sang the Psalms** exclusively as praise-worship, for the first few centuries.
- The Psalms provide and teach the **comprehensive and balanced truth about God** that he wants us to know—about his nature, attributes, character, and providences.
- Singing Psalms **helps us to memorize God's Word** (Psalm 119.11).
- The Psalms have a **global, missional perspective** (for example, Psalms 18.49; 66.1-4; 67.1-7; 72.19; 87.4-7; 96; 98; 100; 148.11-14) and contain the message of judgement and salvation that the world needs to hear.
- The Psalter "**contains even the emotions of each soul**". (Athanasius) The Psalms bless and counsel us with messages of salvation, comfort, direction, and encouragement for any situation in life.
- Using the Psalms as praise-worship **unifies the world-wide Church** around God's Word.
- Everything that we need for the praise-worship of God is in the Psalter—**the songbook of the Church**.