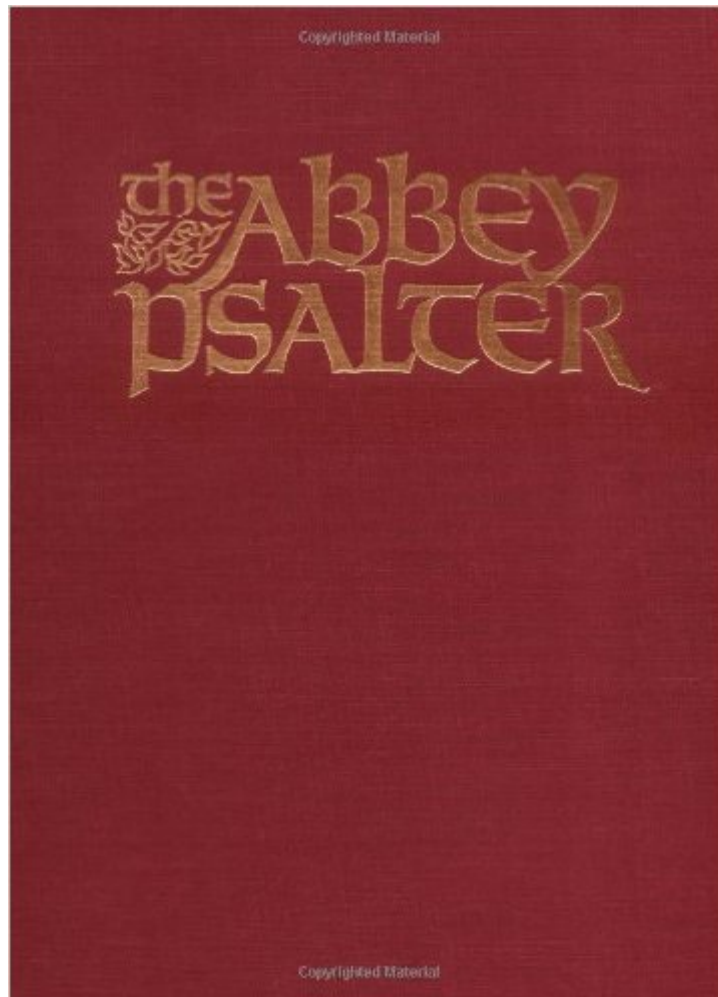


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# The Abbey Psalter: The Book Of Psalms Used By The Trappist Monks Of Genesee Abbey



## Synopsis

The Grail edition of the Psalms, hand-lettered by Trappist monks and set for personal chanting or choir singing.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (29 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

THE ABBEY PSALTER is a large attractive burgundy cloth hard cover book with stylized gilded lettering on the front cover. It reads: The Abbey Psalter. I like it for two reasons. The first is the beautiful, large easy-to-read print and also its fresh translation. Both lend themselves to "praying the psalms." I find it to be "a text ... artfully copied out by hand ... as to suggest something of a personal character that suits the meditative recital of the psalms, and something too of the peace and silence that monks seek to bring to their common prayer" (Foreward). Each of the 150 psalms begins with a larger red letter; there are no verse numbers to interrupt worship, merely diamond-style bullets. In addition to the psalms, the book includes: The Song of Zechariah, The Song of Mary, The Song of Simeon, and Revelation 15, which ends with, "All nations will come and worship you/ for your judgments have been revealed." The second reason I enjoy this book is because of the short but informative Foreward by John Eudes Bamberger, Abbot of the Genesee. He begins: "The Psalter is the prayerbook of the people of God." Thereafter, he quickly and clearly traces the history of the use of the psalms in the Catholic tradition. Furthermore, the book contains, "A Note on Cistercian Art" to accompany nine black & white full page illustrations scattered throughout the text: "Their motifs fall into two categories: stylized flowers and vegetation, and geometric patterns and interlace." This is a

beautiful and touching book. (I think I just might buy another.)

I first heard of this book in the late 70's, when another surger in the late Thomas Merton's books was underway. This Psalter is a copy of the one used by the trappists of Our Lady of the Genesee in Piffard, N.Y... It is a BEAUTIFUL, lovely to look at and hold copy of each of the 150 psalms, lovingly written in large, clean calligraphy. The book itself is big, and meant to be read from a short distance [as the monks do in choir]. A wonderful gift for anyone who loves the psalms, or liturgical prayer. Very, very well put together. The short, concise introduction done by Abbot John Eudes Bamberger is superb.

A large-format, hard cover Psalter, beautifully printed and bound. The text is entirely in caligraphy, and is printed large enough to be read from a few feet away -- as presumably the monks do as they stand and chant the Psalms, with the book on a stand in front of them. It is probably best used this way, and not held in the hands -- it can be held, but it is probably a little large and heavy to be held for long. This book would make a nice gift for someone whose love of, and use of, the Psalter you would like to honor.

I bought this for my wife for Christmas sight unseen. I was pleasantly surprised to discover how lovely a volume it was. The lettering is beautiful yet easy to read. One could meditate on the script in and of itself. The Grail translation of the Psalms is fresh and attractive though I suspect that it may not be as inclusive as some wish given that this volume precedes the 2004 inclusive language Grail Psalter by over 20 years. Each of the Psalms begins with a large red letter and there are no verse numbers to detract the reader and they "pray" the Psalms. It is a beautiful volume, and my wife tells me that I can't have hers.

I have been praying the Divine Office for years now--not as regularly as I should, but quite a bit--and I have been trying for years to find the "Grail" translation. It's so refreshing to find a modern translation that isn't saddled with "inclusive language" (it's a key point of Catholic theology that the Psalms refer to Jesus, so "the man" referred to is just that, The Man, Jesus Christ).

I hope that I just got a terribly fouled up book or all the previous reviewers haven't even cracked their books before writing a review. The book itself is a piece of art, that is a given, and I will cherish it as far as that goes. My major problem is that once you get to Psalm 58 it goes haywire with the

psalm not even being finished and all of a sudden psalm 43 and the end of 42 is being reprinted on the other side. It continues like this for quite a ways throughout the rest of the book and even some of the psalms are not even present like psalm 63, which was very disappointing. There is also no musical notation so one can know how to sing or chant the song either. So for a practical usage standpoint it's not very user friendly.

This is a wonderful translation of the Psalms. It is the 1963 translation of the Grail Psalter. Great way to pray.

In a world that grows more loud and vulgar by the minute, it is truly refreshing to find an item that can take us to a time when Silence was valued, and Speed was seen as more an Enemy than a requirement for success. But for those looking for more, then I cannot recommend to highly this splendid work of prayer and devotion. It does not matter if you are Orthodox, Roman, or Protestant, if you are trying to develop a daily Rule of Prayer, then this psalter is without parallel. It can easily become the cornerstone of a lifetime of meditation.

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