

OTSP 2503 - PSALMS (Fall 2006)

Tu/ Frid 9:40—11:00 JSTB 216
Instructor: John Endres, SJ (JSTB)
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Description: A study of the Psalms that focuses on exegesis, theology and spirituality. It begins with the notion of genres which seem appropriate to various liturgical settings in ancient Israel, and it explores their significance for contemporary study and worship. Attention will be given to recent approaches to the study of the Psalter, including literary and canonical questions. We will explore the spirituality of the Psalter by considering: relationship to individual and communal prayer, worship, music, and the Sunday lectionary. We will also survey some significant points in the history of Psalm reception in Jewish and Christian communities of faith. **General**

Prerequisite: one course in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, or equivalent.

General Requirements: (1) attendance/participation in classes; (2) assigned readings for class, approx. 60-100 pages/week; (3) two 2-page essays (one on Lament Psalms and another on Hymns); (4) a mid-term examination {Oct 20}; (5) read an additional book on Psalms and present a written review of it (3 pp); (6) research paper [10-13 pp]; (7) final three page assessment of Psalm commentaries (see below under 'Required reading'); (8) keep list of the extra ten articles read, with brief description of each. Students at JSTB taking this class as a "praxis" course may negotiate alternative assignments for the short papers.

Evaluation: exam (20%), papers (40%), book review (20%); class participation (20%). will negotiate variations on the shorts papers and review.

Psalms in the Lectionary: on Fridays we will briefly preview the Responsorial Psalm for the next Sunday liturgy in the Roman Lectionary; students using other Lectionaries will check theirs for comparative purposes. Two important questions engage us: why was this psalm an appropriate choice? how does it illuminate the lections, especially the first and third? A very helpful book for this purpose is: Nowell, Irene. *Sing a New Song : the Psalms in the Sunday Lectionary*. Collegeville, Minn. : Liturgical Press, 1993.

Required Readings: selected Psalms (in the syllabus) should be read with a variety of commentaries through the semester, in order to make informed choices about commentaries for future ministry and study. Assigned readings come from: Anderson, Endres & Liebert, and Zenger; a selection of articles will be required. Ten additional articles (chosen by students from list provided by instructor) will be required reading; students should choose carefully, according to pastoral/ theological interests and keep a brief diary of them (to be presented late in the semester). Students will choose one additional book on Psalms, read it and write a book review (3 pages).

Required Books:

Anderson, B.W., with Stephen Bishop. *Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak for us Today*. 3rd revised and expanded edition. Louisville, Ky: Westminster/John Knox, 2000.
Endres, John and Elizabeth Liebert. *A Retreat with the Psalms: Resources for Personal and Communal Prayer*. New York/ Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2001.
Zenger, E. *A God of Vengeance: Understanding the Psalms of Divine Wrath*. Translated by Linda M. Maloney. Louisville, Ky: Westminster/John Knox, 1996.

Electronic Resource: all students should enroll in the course at the GTU Blackboard site, where many readings and additional materials will be available.

Collections of Essays (GTU Library Reserve).

Attridge, Harold W. and Margot E. Fassler (editors). *Psalms in Community : Jewish and Christian Textual, Liturgical, and Artistic Traditions*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.

Reid, Stephen , editor. *Psalms and Practice: Worship, Virtue, and Authority*. Michael Glazier Book. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001.

Strawn, Brent A., and Nancy R. Bowen. *A God So Near: Essays on Old Testament Theology in Honor of Patrick D. Miller*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

Van Deusen, Nancy. *The Place of the Psalms in the Intellectual Culture of the Middle Ages*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1999.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TOPICS AND READINGS

9/5 Tu	History of Psalm Interpretation and Form Criticism
9/8 Fr	Laments I: Individual Laments [Psalms 3, 5, 12, 13, 38, 40, 42-43]
9/12 Tu	Thanksgiving Psalms [Psalms 9-10, 22:22-31; 30, 40, 66:13-20; 107, 124, 129].
9/15 Fr	Praying and Preaching the Psalms
9/19 Tu	Laments II: Communal Laments [Psalms 44, 74, 79, 80, 85, 137]
9/22 Fr	Penitential Psalms [Psalms 6, 32, 38, 52, 102, 130, 143] PAPER ON LAMENTS (2 pages)
9/26 Tu	Hymns of Praise [Psalms 95, 100, 111, 117, 145-150]
9/29 Fr	Royal Psalms [Psalms 2, 18, 21, 45, 72, 93, 101]
10/3 Tu	Psalms of Trust and Confidence [Psalms 16, 23, 27, 63, 91, 121]
10/6 Fr	Liturgical Psalms [Psalms 15, 24, 67, 68, 132, 134] PAPER ON HYMNS (2 pages)
10/10 Tu	Covenant Psalms [Psalms 50, 81, 82, 78, 89; Deuteronomy 32]
10/13 Fr	Psalms of Divine Wrath Read Erich Zenger, <i>A God of Vengeance</i> . (prepare discussion questions)
10/17 Tu	Psalms and Gender: Women and the Psalms
10/20 Fr	MID-TERM EXAM (in class)
-----10/24-10/27-----	FALL READING WEEK-----
10/31 Tu	Torah Psalms [Psalms 1, 19, 119] submit TOPIC OF TERM PAPER
11/3 Fr	Creation Theology in Psalms [Psalms 8, 19, 29, 33, 104, 148; Genesis 1-2]
11/7 Tu	Historical Psalms [Psalms 78, 105, 106, 135-136]
11/10 Fr	Messianic Psalms: Judaism and New Testament [Pss 2, 22, 31, 69, 110, 118]
11/14 Tu	Psalms and the Reformation: Luther and Calvin.
11/17 Fr	Psalms and Spirituality: “The Transformative Process in the Psalms”.
11/21 Tu	Songs of Ascents [Psalms 120-134]
11/24 Fr	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
11/28 Tu	Asaph and Korah Psalms [Psalms 50, 73-83; Psalms 42-49, 84, 85, 87, 88]
12/1 Fr	Wisdom Psalms [Psalms 34, 37, 49, 73, 111, 112, 127, 128]
12/5 Tu	Psalms in Judaism: Qumran and Beyond
12/8 Fr	Psalms in Early Christianity
12/12 Tu	Psalms, Spirituality and Contemporary Ecclesial Life.