

Getting Ready for Chapter 12

Take Home



Psalms of Praise and Works of Wonder

Music gives us a different way to experience prayer. The tone of the music can bring joy, consolation, or hope to prayer. Poetry, too, conveys messages of faith in more emotional ways than normal speech. Psalms are prayers, poems, and songs all wrapped up into one. They are a powerful part of the Church's prayer life, with a rich Old Testament history.

ACTIVITY

Prayer Gear To show that prayer time is special and sacred, choose a holy item—the Bible, a crucifix, a rosary—that people in your family can keep close by during prayer time.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During the responsorial psalm, try to experience the calm that Saul felt when David sang and played the harp.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Pope Gregory the Great
(540–604)

As pope, Gregory the Great worked to reform the Church by removing unfit clergy and abolishing clerical fees for burial and ordinations. He was responsible for bringing Christianity to England and is credited with initiating Gregorian chant, which is still popular in liturgies today.

Feast Day: September 3



**A Prayer
for the
Week**

We praise you, Lord,
for your wonderful ways.
You have given us many
gifts. We especially
thank you for the gifts
of music and poetry.
Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

The Psalms The Book of Psalms contains hymns and laments of ancient Israel—150 altogether. Many psalms are attributed to David. The Psalms date from the tenth century B.C. through the third century B.C. Because they were written over such a long period of time, the Psalms present varying ways of addressing God. Some speak of the God of a single people and place, while others speak of a God of all people. The Psalms describe virtually every aspect of everyday life. Psalms is truly the common book of prayer of Christians and Jews. Choose a favorite Psalm to read.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Poetry

Gerard Manley Hopkins Gerard Manley Hopkins was a Jesuit priest who lived in the nineteenth century. He was the brilliant son of a wealthy English couple, whom he shocked by becoming Catholic and then a priest. He had a unique way of expressing his thoughts and a deep appreciation for God in nature. He ended the poem “Pied Beauty” by reminding the reader to praise God. Hopkins lived only forty-five years and was not published until thirty years after his death.