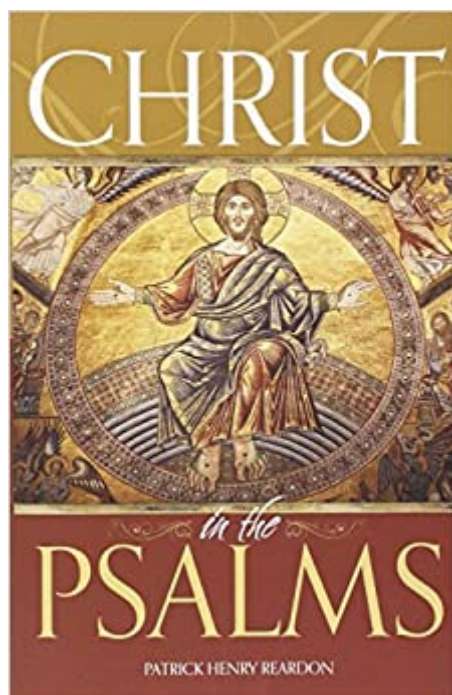


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Christ In The Psalms



Synopsis

The Psalms run like a golden thread through the beautiful garment of Orthodox worship. In addition to inspiring the public prayer of the church, the Psalms are an indispensable part of the private devotions of all who seek a closer relationship with God. Most important, however, the Psalms point toward the ultimate liberation of humanity from sin, death and despair through Jesus Christ. Father Pat Reardon, drawing on his long experience as an Episcopal, and then as a priest in the Orthodox Church, has produced a work of depth and devotion. He rightly understands that one cannot truly probe the deep meaning of the Psalms unless one understands them in the light of the redemption brought by Christ...He provides the fresh and intensely personal insights of a pastor to the study of the Book of Psalms. "Every now and then a book comes along that is a small classic. Here is such a book: elegantly written, deceptively simple, and utterly absorbing." Father Addison Hart, Priest, Newman Center, Northern Illinois University

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Customer Reviews

Father Patrick Henry Reardon is the pastor of All Saints Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois and Senior Editor of **Touchstone**, a monthly journal. Father Reardon is the translator of the Book of Exodus for The Orthodox Study Bible. In earlier years he was a professor of Biblical studies at two Episcopal seminaries, a professor of Philosophy, and senior canon.

Christ in the Psalms was originally published back in 2000 but has since been revised. If you own

the original, like myself, you will first notice a more substantial introduction. In this edition, Fr. Reardon explains "The Unity of the Bible," "The Voices of the Psalter," and "The First Three Psalms." I never noticed this about the Psalms before, but the first three chapters form a theological outline for the whole book. The other major changes occurred in Fr. Reardon's commentary on Psalms 73, 75, 90, 94, and 106. Bear in mind this is the Septuagint numbering as the Septuagint Old Testament has 151 Psalms. As the title suggests, this book is a devotion/commentary on the book of Psalms with Jesus as the light by which to read them. With a commentary for each chapter, this book is just over 300 pages. However, don't let the size of this book intimidate you. Each commentary is only 1 page front and back, making it both manageable and enjoyable to read at your own pace. I recommend reading a Psalm and commentary in the morning and one at night. Using this schedule, one can make it through the book in other 3 months, but one a day is also a good reading pace. It is easy to read some Psalms and see how they relate to Jesus, like Psalm 23 (Psalm 22 in the Septuagint). However, don't think that this is just merely "The Good Shepherd Psalm." Fr. Reardon provides further insight that one may have never noticed before. In the 23rd Psalm, one can also see the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Chrismation/Confirmation). That explanation blew my mind, and I will never look at Psalm 23 the same way again. This is a book you must have in your library. I simply wish I could give it more than 5 stars. The only hard decision to make, when it comes to owning this book, would be if you own the original edition. You will have to decide if the changes mentioned above are worth buying the revised edition. I personally would, but that's just me. Check out Fr. Reardon's complementary title Christ in His Saints also available from Conciliar Press.

I have read many books in an effort to better understand the Psalms, but this is far and away my favorite. The author reveals a good deal of wisdom in each psalm. When I reached the 151st Psalm* I was considering going through the book again and reading much slower, more reflectively. That'll be for the next reading.* 151st Psalm, yes, you read it right. Apparently there are 151 Psalms in the Septuagint and Reardon is an Orthodox priest.

Nothing less than - outstanding. This is a great book which is the result of a mature understanding of the Psalms, as a prophetic expression of the faith. The reader would get a complementary teaching on the Psalms by reading this book.

Christ in the Psalms is one of the rare books that one can consider a true "blessing" to have read. It

gives the reader a lot of spiritual 'meat' to chew on, and yet it is entirely readable and accessible. Erudite without being academic. Spiritual without being maudlin. Entirely orthodox and filled with dry wit and wry observations. Sometimes a passage was like a hand on the shoulder whispering kindly advice in my ear; other passages sharp but much needed criticism. Simply outstanding. At a time when I had a very poor spiritual director and so much unhappiness in the seminary, Fr. Reardon provided sorely needed mercy and respite through his book. I have read this book twice, and in two ways. First, cover to cover, but in two or three chapter bits as an aid to meditation in chapel. The other way was skipping from psalm to psalm as I progressed through the (Roman Catholic) Liturgy of the Hours...praying the Psalms of the hour and then reading Fr. Reardon's commentary on the Psalms just prayed. As I write this review, I cannot help but to think of the words of the Disciples on the road to Emmaus: "Did not our hearts burn within us he opened the Scriptures to us?" Perhaps the best thing I can say about the book is that it showed me the love and friendship of Christ in ways I had not known before. Therefore, I am compelled to recommend it to you and hope that you will get as much out of it as I did.

This was written by a priest for many years for his congregation to learn about the psalms. He looks at each psalm and uses historical references to help interpret the psalms. This helps those of us who don't know much about the Jews or the outlying area and cities of that time. This is not something to read straight through, but to pick up every now and then. There is a chapter for every psalm. Here is a quote from page 55, speaking of psalm 28: "The setting of this tempest is a giant cedar forest, whose overarching branches assume the contours of a vaulted temple, and through this lofty sylvan shrine the booming voice of God comes pounding and roaring with a terrifying majesty, accompanied by the swishing of the wind and rain, while flashing bolts of lightning split the very trunks of the towering trees: 'In His temple everything speaks glory.' This is a psalm about God's 'glory' (kavod) and 'holiness. In any language, this is certainly a psalm to be prayed out loud, allowing the words to come rumbling through the soul..."

It's hard to believe that Reardon can pack so much depth into such brief and elegant essays on all 150 Psalms. If all you have is ten minutes you can read a Psalm and his essay and you will have both a heart-glow and a mind-challenge for the rest of the day. Filled with appropriate quotes from the church fathers and information about the formation of the liturgical life of the church---how a particular psalm is used in the church's liturgy.

Jesus said the scriptures reveal him. Reardon uses sound exegesis to bring out Jesus in the Psalms. I am happy to purchase more of his books.

Reardon does a wonderful job deeply connecting the Psalms to our Lord Jesus Christ. His theological acumen is superb without losing his readers.

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