
BOOK REVIEW

by Dr. Raymond F. Glover

Daw, Carl P., Jr. and Thomas Pavlechko.
Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B (Church Publishing, New York, 2008), \$30.00.

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are rich with images of gifts and celebrations: Advent, with its promise of the Divine Gifts; Christmas, the story of the birth of Jesus and the visitation of the shepherds; and Epiphany, with the visit of the Magi and their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Related to this, there is an additional reason for clergy and musicians of the Church to celebrate for they have received another gift that will be of the greatest help to them in planning for the worship of their congregations. It is *Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B*, the work of Carl Daw, Jr. (a priest of the Church, an important contemporary author of hymn texts, a contributor of significant original texts and translations to *The Hymnal 1982* and, since 1966, Executive Director of The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada) and Thomas Pavlechko (published composer of anthems and settings of service music, and currently Cantor and Composer in Residence at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas). From 2000 to 2006, Dr. Pavlechko served as Organist and Choirmaster at Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and previous to that, he served as Organist and Choirmaster at Episcopal churches in Petersburg, Virginia, and Cincinnati, Ohio. Both men—one a priest, the other a church musician—in addition to their gifts as authors, composers, and compilers of the "Year A" volume in the series, bring extensive practical experience in the use of the *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL), a

reality which gives added credibility to this publication. The RCL replaces the *Book of Common Prayer* Lectionary and is required for use in The Episcopal Church beginning in Advent 2010. This statement, however, does not preclude the use of the Revised Lectionary and this supportive resource immediately.

First and foremost, "Liturgical Music" (RCL, Year B), like its predecessor for Year A, is an enormously practical volume for the use of clergy and musicians preparing music for the worship of their congregations on every Sunday of the liturgical year, Christmas Day, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter Eve, the weekdays of the first week of Easter, Ascension Day, and certain Holy Days (The Presentation, The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Transfiguration, Holy Cross Day, All Saints' Day, and Thanksgiving Day).

Resources for anthems for each Celebration of the Eucharist during the liturgical year are arranged under the headings: Collect (where relevant), the three Scripture readings and Psalm, or (where relevant) an alternate Canticle. Each listing of an anthem includes the voicing of each work, the possible use of handbells, solo voices and instrumentation, the composer's name, and (where relevant) the collection in which the work may be found.

In the section covering the hymns chosen from *The Hymnal 1982* and four of its supplements (*Wonder, Love, and Praise; LEVAS II; Voices Found; My Heart Sings Out*), indications are given for the relationship of the text to a particular reading and its suggested place in the liturgy, for example: Entrance, Sequence, Offertory, Communion and Post Communion. The letter "c" is added when a text is related to, but is not a setting of the Collect for the Day. In addition, the letter "s" is present when a text is related to the season, rather than the particular day of the season. Supplementing this the authors have included an extensive listing of sources and other resources and tables giving the full titles of anthem collections and collections of vocal solos indicated in the text with abbreviations. Completing every anthem listing are titles of additional anthems, cantatas, and major works

appropriate to each Sunday. Also included in the introductory materials is a list of the sources for the compilers' work, an enrichment whose use will expand the riches available for use by the musician in his or her planning.

Although introductory material in a book may prove to be of limited value to the reader, the careful use of the introductory comments by the compilers of this publication is a "must!" For example, they challenge the user to the reality that this publication is "intended to be a starting place for those who plan Eucharistic worship following the Revised Common Lectionary. These suggestions are not a substitute for careful local planning but a survey of the possibilities from which choices can be made."

Further, read carefully the second paragraph on page 4, which explains the rationale for the choices they have made in hymnody. Here they offer important, practical, general, and what I consider as crucial advice: when in a parish the priest and musician make decisions on appropriate choices of hymns.

As a musician and teacher whose life has been spent planning and leading the music in the Church, I admire the "up front" honesty of these men, for no one resource of this nature will satisfy the needs of every parish. However, recognizing the quality of the compilers' works, I consider this book, its predecessor, *Lectionary Music for the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A*, and the yet to be published volume for Year C, as *essential* resources for every parish priest and musician. Use them with careful, creative imagination as a place to start planning, recognizing the nature and musical capabilities and resources of a particular parish. Let them inspire us to look further in our efforts to enrich the musical lives of our congregations.
