

## SECTION 2: THE DAILY OFFICE

### 1. Identify the following terms:

- Psalms (capitalized) and psalms (uncapitalized) [p. 201]
- Clairaudience [205]
- Superscriptions [206]
- Doxological ontology [211]
- Imprecatory psalms [210]
- Six parts of the psalm tone (incipit, reciting, flex, median, reciting, final cadence [223])

### 2 Deepening Our Understanding

- What are the three different views on who wrote the psalms [p.202]
  - Why was the attribution of the psalms to David so important throughout the ages? [p. 203, particularly p. 205]
- Athanasius wrote about two special characteristics of the psalms: 1) they are a microcosm of the rest of the Bible, and 2) they focus on interiority. [209-209] What are some of the special features of this interiority, according to Athanasius? [p. 209]
- Olsen states that the psalms and canticles give us an interpretive lens through which we can experience the rest of scripture. At the same time, he notes that there are three fundamental concepts within the Psalter that are crucial and inescapable elements of the Christian social conscience: 1) orienting all of creation to God; 2) an emphasis on the Law; 3) forming a habit of empathy. [210 – 211]
  - Orienting all creation to God is “a crucial point in establishing a social conscience of any kind” Why is this? [211]
  - Olsen: “As we diminish creation, the universal song of praise to God is likewise diminished.” [213] You agree?
  - Psalm 96: “Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes / when he comes to judge the earth / He will judge the earth with righteousness/ and the peoples with his truth.”
    - As translated in the NJB: “he will judge the world with saving justice, and the nations with constancy.”
    - When will this judgment take place?
    - How does Psalm 146 point to the kind of judgment to expect? [214-215]
  - Forty-six of the psalms are laments; how do these laments engage our empathy and oblige us to understand the world in a different way? [218]
    - How do the imprecatory psalms do the same? [220]
- “Praying the Office every once in a while isn’t enough. It has to become a discipline” [222] Does this surprise you? Reflect your understanding?
- “Speaking the psalms in community follows essentially the same pattern as singing.” [p.225] Look at the pattern of breathing and pauses. We’ll try this in class.