

October 24, 2021
Discussion on the Singing

QUESTION FOR REVIEW:

1. Read Exodus 15:1-2, Psalm 98:1-5, and Revelation 5:9-10. The Scriptures give us many reasons to sing. What reasons are given in these passages?

2. Read Ephesians 5:18-20 and Colossians 3:15-17. Both of these passages speak of our singing be used to help one another. How is our use of music helpful for those around us?

3. Our singing can be directed to one another (horizontal) or toward God (vertical). The psalms give us examples of both, sometimes in the same psalm. Please read Psalm 5:1-2 and Psalm 136:1-3. Which way are these verses directed?

4. When we sing we should consider who the song is about (who is the subject). Read Psalm 113. Who is the subject? Why does make sense that this be the focus of our singing?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

5. Do you have a favorite song that we sing in church? Why is it your favorite?

6. Read Acts 16:20-25. Paul and Silas were mistreated and thrown into prison yet were still singing hymns to God. Have you ever been able to sing in a situation that was difficult for you? How can singing help us in difficult times?

7. During the time before the Reformation congregational singing was not common. Most of the singing was done by priests or choirs. What would we be missing if congregational singing was not a part of our regular worship service?

8. Read Psalm 30:1, 30:4, 57:7, and 95:1. The book of Psalms was the songbook of the people of Israel. How do these inform us about the direction of our singing?

9. There are many things that we could be singing about. Why is it important that our music focus on singing that keeps God as the main object of the song?

10. Martin Luther said that “next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Part of the reason he has such high regard for music is its versatility. He says, “whether you wish to comfort the sad, to terrify the happy, to encourage the despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate, or to appease those full of hate – and who could number all these masters of the human heart, namely, the emotions, inclinations, and affections that impel men to evil or good?” Take a look at the hymns of Lent and then of Easter or Christmas. How do these hymns match the season of the Church year?

11. On nearly every Sunday we have congregational singing, singing as a part of the liturgy, special music, and often we have the praise team leading us in singing. What are the unique ways that these singing portions contribute to divine worship?