

PSALTIC ART

The Orthodox Church uses hymnology and chanting during its divine services. This practice is rooted in the Holy Scriptures, and modeled after the example of the heavenly angels who ceaselessly offer hymns of praise to God.

The prophet Isaiah, during a vision, saw angels chanting, **“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts” (Isaiah 6:3).**

Angels praised the Lord during His incarnation: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2: 14).**

As recorded in the book of Revelation, St. John the Evangelist saw a multitude of angels and saved souls in Heaven chanting unto God: **“And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb” (Rev. 15:3).** **“And they sang a new song before the throne” (Rev. 14:3).** **“And they sang a new song” (Rev. 5:9).**

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself at the conclusion of the Mystical Supper chanted hymns along with His disciples: **“And after they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” (Mt. 26:30).**

The Holy Apostles frequently used hymnology. Saint Luke the Evangelist states that after the Ascension of Christ the Apostles were, **“And they were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God” (Lk. 24:52).** In another instance, when the Apostles Paul and Silas were imprisoned, they sang praises unto the Lord: **“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God” (Acts 16:25).**

In following, the New Testament informs us that the first Christians utilized hymnology in their worship: **“And continuing daily with one accord in the temple ... praising God” (Acts 2:46-47).**

The Apostle Paul makes clear reference to the use of hymnology when instructing the Christians thus: **“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19).** Elsewhere he advises: **“teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col. 3:16).**