

**Bernardino de Sahagún's *Psalmodia Christiana* (1583):
A Christian Songbook from Sixteenth-Century New Spain**



"El Modo de Bailar de los Mexicanos." Juan de Tovar, Mexico, ca. 1585.
John Carter Brown Library, Archive of Early American Images [Accession number 30289-101].

In die sancti Hipoliti

Primer Psalmo

Ma tipapaquica, ma tahauia in ipan ilhuitzi in itlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito Martyr: yoan ipampa in vei tlamauicõlli in topan omuchiuh in nican Nueva España titlaca.

Iuh catca in itlatlaliltzi in totecuiio dio in aiamo tzinti in cemañoac, inic vei tlamauicõltica otechmomaquistili in imacpa in tlatateculutl, in nican nueva España titlaca.

Inin tlamauicõlli, topan oquimuchiuli inipan ilhuitzi in itlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito: auh in tonemazuistiliz, in tech nezcaiotloc inipilhoa Israel, inic oquinmomaquistili inimpa Egipto tlaca.

Iehoatl in Moysen, oquinmolhuili in ipilhoa in Israel, iniquac oquinmomaquistili ininmacpa in Egipto tlaca: maxiquilnamiquica inin ilhuitl, inipan oanmaquistiloque ininmacpa in Egipto tlaca.

Vel xiquilnamiquica inin ilhuitl, inipan oanquitlazque in tlacuuitl, in tetlaecultiliztli, inic amintlacaoa oanmuchihuatca in Egipto tlaca.

Vei tlamauicõltica, vei nechicaoalztica, oamechmomaquistili in Dios, ininmacpa in amoiaoa, in amotetolinicaoa.

Segundo Psalmo

Yniuh tlamauicõltica oquinmomaquistili in totecuiio Dios inipilhoa in Israel ininmacpa in Egipto tlaca, inipan chicunauilhuitl metztli, in itoca Março.

Çan noiuh tlamauicõltica otechmomaquistili in totecuiio Dios in nican nueva España titlaca ininmacpa in tlatlacateculu inipan ilhuitzi in sant Hipolito.

Auh in iehoanti inipilhoa in Israel, cecexiuh tica ilhuiquistiaia, inic quilhuiquistiaia ininnemaquistiliz ilhuiuh, çan no totechmonequi in nueva España titlaca, cecexiuh tica tilhuitiazque, inipampa in tonemaquistiliz ilhuiuh, in tonemaquistiliz cauiuh.

Ca cenca vei tlamauicõlli, topan quimuchiuli in totecuiio Dios, inic opeoaloque: in iehoanti quimalhuiaia, quimanuiaia in tlatlacateculu, in nican tepachoaia nueva España.

Tintlacaoa tcatca in tlatlacateculu, auh iehoanti in tetecuti, in tlatoque, quinpisticatca, quintlaçotlaticatca in tlatlacateculu: auh in Dios quioalmioali ini iaoquizcaoa, ic peoaloque in tlatlacateculu, yoan inintelaçotlacaoa.

Inin tlamauicõlli, inic otimaquistiloque in Nueva España titlaca, ipan omuchiuh in ilhuitzi in itlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito, matipapaquica, matahauia: Alleluia, alleluia.

Tercero Psalmo

Maticmauicõca inaxca in itlatollo, yoan in inechichualtzi in itlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito, cenca mauiztililoni.

Initlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito, Roma ichan, tlaçopilli, y Alcaide catca in Emperador Decio: auh iniquac ilpiloc in itlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço, vei Alguazil catca.

Auh in iehoatl in itlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço, teutlatoltica oquinonotz in sant Hipolito, tlateutocani catca, oquitlaneltoquiti, yoan oquiquatequi, yoan inisquichti ichantlaca.

Auh iniquac omomiquili in itlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço, auh in iehoatl in sant Hipolito, ichtaca quitocac ininacaio: auh ic oteispanuiloc inispan Emperador.

Auh in iehoatl in Emperador otlanaoati in analoz, ispan vicoz: auh iniquac oispan vicoc, vetzac in quito: cuix tinaoalli otimuchiuh, inic otictotac ininacaio in Lorenço?

Auh in iehoatl in sant Hipolito quito: nehoatl onictocac ininacaiotzi in itlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço: amo ipampa in ninaoalli, ca çan ipampa in ni Christiano.

Quarto Psalmo

Auh in Emperador, in oiuh quicac y, cenca oqualan, otlanaoati, inic quicopinilizque ini christiano tlatqui, inic quipetlauazque.

Auh in iehoatl in itlaço in Dios, in sant Hipolito, quito: amo ninotequipa choa, inipampa onipetlaoaloc, amononipinaoa: auh in Emperador oquilhui, ic tineci, ca tijollotlaueliloc, amo tipinaoa inic tipetlauhticac.

Yoan oquilhui in Emperador, in tlacamo titlamanaz inimispa in toteoa, tipoliuz, iniuh opoliuh Lorenço, in otictocac ininacaio.

Auh in itlaço in Dios in sancto Hipolito, quilhui in Emperador cenca nipapaquiz, in itla nicteputztozac in itlaço in Dios in sant Lorenço, in amo momaceoal, in ticteneoaz in itoca, inica in motlauelilocanepil.

In oiuh quicac y, in Emperador, niman cenca qualan, yoan otlanaoati, inic qlaihuuiltloz mecatica, yoan tepuzchicoltica tzatzaianaloz ininacaio: auh in iehoatl in sant Hipolito, quito: ca ni Christiano.

Auh in Emperador otlanaoati, inic cauillo iquechtlan quilpizque, inic quiuilantiazque inisquichica miqiz: uncan omomiquili in itlaço in Dios in sant Hipolito: ini anima otlamelauh inilhuicac: auh ininacaio, qualca oquitocaque in Christianome, in umpa Roma.

Feast of St. Hippolytus

First Psalm

Let us be happy, let us take pleasure in the feast of God's beloved St. Hippolytus, the martyr, and because of the great wonder wrought for us, the people of New Spain.

Such was our Lord God's dispensation before the world was founded: that through a mighty miracle He would deliver us, the people of New Spain, from the hands of the devil.

This miracle He wrought for us on the feast day of God's beloved St. Hippolytus. And our salvation was betokened for us when He saved the sons of Israel from the hands of the Egyptians.

When He had saved them from the hands of the Egyptians, Moses told the sons of Israel: Remember this day, when you were saved from the hands of the Egyptians.

Remember well this day when you threw off the slavery, the servitude, of when you were the Egyptians' men.

By a great miracle, with great zeal, God has saved you from the hands of your foes, of those who have afflicted you.

Second Psalm

As through a miracle God saved the sons of Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, on the ninth day of the month of March,

Just so, through a miracle, God saved us, the people of New Spain, from the hands of devils on St. Hippolytus' festive day.

And the children of Israel each year held a festival to celebrate the day of their deliverance. Just so is it required that we, the people of New Spain, each year observe the feast, because it is the festival of our deliverance; it is what pertains to our deliverance.

Our Lord God wrought a very mighty miracle for us when those who pampered, who defended the devils who were governing New Spain, were conquered.

We were the devils' men, and the lords and rulers were the devils' guardians; they were the ones who loved them. And God sent his warriors so that the devils and their befrienders were conquered.

This miracle, by which we, we the people of New Spain, were saved, was wrought on the feast day of God's beloved St. Hippolytus. Let us be happy; let us take pleasure. Alleluia, alleluia.

Third Psalm

Now let us pay honor to the history, the deeds, of God's beloved St. Hippolytus. They are most worthy of being honored.

Rome was the home of God's beloved St. Hippolytus. He was a highborn nobleman and Emperor Decius's jailer. And when God's beloved St. Lawrence was jailed, Hippolytus was a noted constable.

And God's beloved St. Lawrence spoke with godly words to St. Hippolytus, who was a worshipper of idols. He converted and baptized him, as well as all his household.

And when God's beloved St. Lawrence died, St. Hippolytus secretly interred his body. He therefore was denounced by the emperor.

And the emperor commanded that he be seized and brought before him. And when he had been brought before him, the emperor laughed and said: Have you become a sorcerer that you have buried Lawrence's body?

And St. Hippolytus said: I buried the body of God's beloved St. Lawrence not because I am a sorcerer but just because I am a Christian.

Fourth Psalm

And when the emperor heard this, he was very angry. He commanded that they remove him from his Christian clothing, that they strip him.

And God's beloved St. Hippolytus said: I am not concerned because I have been stripped, nor am I ashamed. And the emperor said to him: So it appears that you are a madman. You are not ashamed when you stand naked.

And the emperor said to him: If you do not lay an offering before our gods, you will perish, as Lawrence, whose body you have buried, has perished.

And God's beloved St. Hippolytus said to the emperor: I shall be most joyful if I follow God's beloved St. Lawrence, whose name you are not worthy to call out with your wicked tongue.

When the emperor heard this, he then was very angry, and he commanded that Hippolytus be tortured with the lash and his body broken up with chains. But St. Hippolytus said: I am a Christian.

And the emperor commanded that they tie him to a horse's neck and then go on dragging him until he died. God's beloved St. Hippolytus died there. His soul went straight to Heaven, and Christians buried his body in a goodly place in Rome.

--Trans. Arthur J. O. Anderson

Psalmodia Christiana, Table of Contents (333 Psalms)

Short Catechism [13 psalms]

Sign of the Cross; Apostles' Creed; Our Father; Hail Mary; Hail Holy Queen;
Ten Commandments; Precepts of the Church; Seven Sacraments; Heavenly
Beatitude

January

Circumcision of Our Lord [4 psalms]
Epiphany of Our Lord [8 psalms]
St. Sebastian [4 psalms]

February

Purification, Blessed Virgin Mary [4 psalms]
St. Matthias, Apostle [5 psalms]
Septuagesima Sunday [14 psalms; Book of Genesis]

March

St. Thomas Aquinas [3 psalms]
St. Gregory the Great [3 psalms]
St. Gabriel, Archangel [5 psalms]
St. Joseph [7 psalms]
Annunciation, Blessed Virgin Mary [6 psalms]

April

Resurrection of Our Lord: Day 1 [4 psalms]; Day 2 [5 psalms]; Day 3 [4 psalms]
St. Mark, Evangelist [5 psalms]
Sundays of Easter [11 Psalms; Book of Revelation]

May

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles [6 psalms]
Finding of the Holy Cross [4 psalms]
Ascension of Our Lord [4 psalms]
St. Bernardine of Siena, OFM [5 psalms]
Pentecost: Day 1 [4 psalms]; Day 2 [4 psalms]; Day 3 [4 psalms]
Corpus Christi [4 psalms]

June

St. Barnabas, Apostle [4 psalms]
St. Anthony of Padua, OFM [5 psalms]
Nativity of St. John the Baptist [6 psalms]
Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles [4 psalms]

July

St. Bonventure, OFM [4 psalms]
St. Mary Magdalen [3 psalms]
St. James, Apostle [4 psalms]
St. Anne [4 psalms]
St. Martha [4 psalms]

August

Transfiguration of Our Lord [5 psalms]
St. Dominic [10 psalms]
St. Lawrence [7 psalms]
St. Clare, OFM [5 psalms]
St. Hippolytus [4 psalms]
Assumption, Blessed Virgin Mary [6 psalms]
St. Louis of Toulouse, Bishop, OFM [4 psalms]
St. Bartholomew, Apostle [7 psalms]
St. Augustine [10 psalms]

September

Nativity, Blessed Virgin Mary [4 psalms]
Stigmata of St. Francis, OFM [6 psalms]
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist [5 psalms]
St. Michael, Archangel [5 psalms]
St. Jerome [4 psalms]

October

St. Francis, OFM [10 psalms]
St. Luke, Evangelist [4 psalms]
Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles [5 psalms]

November

All Saints [5 psalms]
St. Martin of Tours, Bishop [7 psalms]
St. Catherine [5 psalms]
St. Andrew, Apostle [10 psalms]

December

St. Ambrose [4 psalms]
Conception, Blessed Virgin Mary [5 psalms]
St. Thomas, Apostle [5 psalms]
Nativity of Our Lord: Day 1 [4 psalms]; Day 2 [4 psalms]; Day 3 [5 psalms]

Hymns in the *Psalmodia Christiana*

Epiphany

1) Hostis Herodes impie

Resurrection of Our Lord

- 2) Aurora lucis rutilat
- 3) Rex aeternae Domine
- 4) Ad coenam agni providi

Sundays of the Easter Season

5) Urbs beata Hierusalem

Finding of the Holy Cross

- 6) Pange lingua [Fortunatus]
- 7) Vexilla regis prodeunt

Ascension of Our Lord

8) Iesu nostra redemptio

Pentecost

9) Iam Christus astra ascenderat

Corpus Christi

10) Sacris solemnis

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

11) Ut queant laxis

Transfiguration of Our Lord

- 12) Gaude mater pietatis
- 13) Exultat laudibus sacra contio

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 14) Quem terra pontus sidera
- 15) Ave maris stella

St. Michael the Archangel

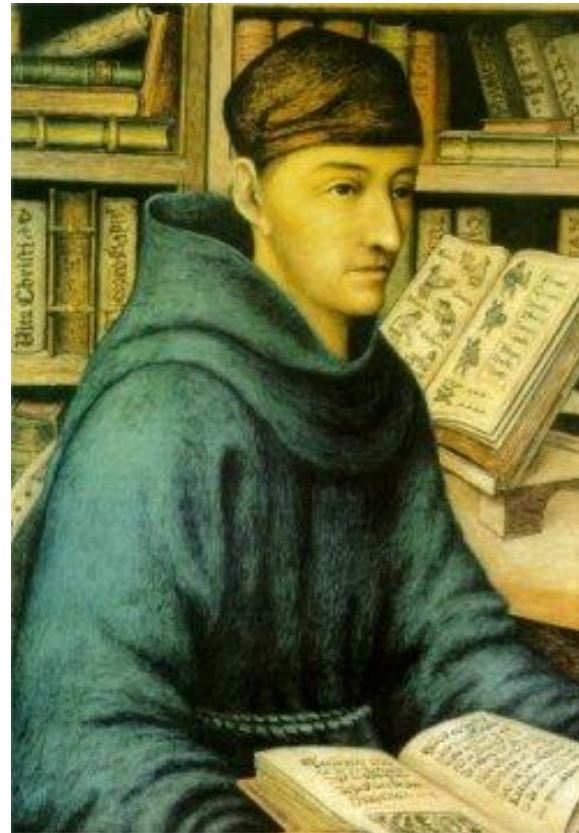
- 16) Tibi Christe splendor patris
- 17) Christe sanctorum decus angelorum

All Saints

18) Christe redemptor omnium

Nativity of Our Lord

- 19) Christe redemptor omnium
- 20) A solis ortus cardine



Bernardino de Sahagún, OFM (1499-1590)

**Latin liturgical songs behind the Nahua canticles for the third day
of Easter in Sahagún's *Psalmodia Christiana*.**

FIRST PSALM

"Now let us pay honor to the song of our holy mother Church, with which she praises Jesus Christ Our Lord because of His Resurrection. She says:"

Hymn

Aurora lucis rutilat (*Analecta Hymnica* 51, no. 84)

--Hymn at Lauds during Eastertide

SECOND PSALM

[Aurora lucis rutilat, continued]

Hymn

Rex aeternae domine (*Analecta Hymnica* 2, no. 47)

--Hymn at Matins during Eastertide

THIRD PSALM

[Rex aeternae domine, continued]

Hymn

Ad coenam agni providi (*Analecta Hymnica* 2, no. 46)

--Hymn at Vespers from Easter Sunday to Ascension

FOURTH PSALM

[Ad coenam agni providi, continued]

Responsory:

R. Angelus domini descendit de caelo et accendens revolvit lapidem et super eum sedit et dixit mulieribus nolite timere scio enim quia crucifixum quaeritis jam surrexit venite et videte locum ubi positus erat dominus alleluia

v. Et introeuntes in monumentum viderunt juvenem sedentem in dexteris coopertum stola candida et obstupuerunt qui dicit illis

--Responsory for the first lesson at Matins on Easter Sunday

Antiphon:

Et ecce terraemotus factus est magnus angelus autem domini descendit de caelo alleluia

--Divine Office (Lauds through None) on Easter Sunday

Antiphon:

Erat autem aspectus ejus sicut fulgur vestimenta ejus sicut nix alleluia

--Divine Office (Lauds through None) on Easter Sunday

Antiphon:

Prae timore autem ejus exterriti sunt custodes et facti sunt velut mortui alleluia

--Divine Office (Lauds through None) on Easter Sunday

Hymn doxology:

Gloria tibi, Domine,
Qui surrexisti a mortuis,
Cum patre et sancto spiritu
In sempiterna saecula.

[This is the last stanza for both "Rex aeternae" and "Ad coenam"]

Primary Source:

Psalmodia christiana y sermonario de los santos del año, en lengua mexicana: compuesta por el muy R. Padre Fray Bernardino de Sahagún, de la orden de sant Francisco. Ordenada en cantares ó Psalmos: para que canten los indios in los areytos, que hazen en las Iglesias. Mexico: Pedro Ocharte, 1583. [The University of Texas at Austin, Benson Latin American Collection, Rare Books GZZ IC092. From the library of Joaquín García Icazbalceta.]

Modern Editions:

Bernardino de Sahagún's Psalmodia Christiana (Christian Psalmody). Translated by Arthur J. O. Anderson. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1993.

Bernardino de Sahagún, *Psalmodia Christiana y Sermonario de los Santos del Año, en Lengua Mexicana.* Edited and translated by José Luis Suárez Roca with an introduction by Miguel León-Portilla. León: Instituto Leonés de Cultura, 1999.